

1 Chronicles 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.

Analysis

The phrase 'let us bring again the ark of our God to us' reveals a crucial theological insight: the ark's absence during Saul's reign symbolized spiritual neglect. The ark represented God's covenant presence (Exodus 25:22), and retrieving it signified David's prioritization of worship and divine presence. The statement 'we enquired not at it in the days of Saul' connects to 1 Chronicles 10:14's indictment. Reformed theology emphasizes that true kingship serves God's glory and facilitates worship. However, the subsequent narrative shows that good intentions require biblical methodology - enthusiasm without obedience leads to judgment (Uzzah's death).

Historical Context

The ark had remained at Kiriath-jearim since the Philistines returned it (1 Samuel 7:1-2), roughly 70 years earlier. David's desire to centralize worship in Jerusalem reflected ancient Near Eastern patterns where capital cities hosted chief sanctuaries, but more importantly fulfilled God's promises about a chosen dwelling place (Deuteronomy 12).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'arks' - symbols of God's presence - have you neglected in seasons of spiritual coldness?
2. How does this passage warn against zeal without knowledge in our worship and service to God?

Interlinear Text

וְנִסְּ בָּהּ	אֶת	אֶרֶץ	וְנִסְּ בָּהּ	אֶל יְהוָה	כִּי	לֹא
And let us bring again	H853	the ark	H727	of our God	H413	H3588
H5437				H430		H3808
דָּרַשְׁנָה הוּא	בֵּית יְ	שָׁאוּל:				
to us for we enquired	not at it in the days	of Saul				
H1875	H3117	H7586				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 14:36 (References God): And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

1 Samuel 14:18 (References God): And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.

1 Samuel 22:15 (References God): Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

1 Samuel 23:2 (Parallel theme): Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

1 Samuel 22:10 (Parallel theme): And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

