

1 Chronicles 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

Analysis

For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order—David's confession pinpoints the problem: *ki lo' darashnu mishpat* ('we sought him not according to the ordinance'). The word *mishpat* means prescribed manner, the Torah's detailed instructions for handling holy objects (Num 4:15).

The 'breach' (parats) refers to Uzzah's death, a breaking forth of divine holiness against violation. David learned that good intentions (retrieving the ark) don't excuse bad methods (using a cart). This principle pervades Scripture: God cares about how we obey, not just that we obey. The New Covenant doesn't abolish this principle but internalizes it through Spirit-empowered obedience.

Historical Context

David's public acknowledgment of error before all Israel's leaders demonstrated the humility that made him 'a man after God's own heart' (1 Sam 13:14). This transparent confession unified the second attempt around proper worship principles, not human innovation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between well-intentioned disobedience and Spirit-directed obedience?
2. What 'due order' in Scripture have you overlooked in favor of seemingly practical alternatives?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה אַתָּם לְמַבֵּר אֲשׁוֹן הָיָה כִּי
the LORD made a breach at them because ye did it not at the first
H3588 For because ye did it not at the first H3808 H859 H6555 H2068

דָּרְשָׁגְנָהוּ לְאַלְהָיָנוּ בְּכִי בְּכִי
upon us for that we sought
our God H0 H3588 H3808 H1875

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Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 6:3 (References God): And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

1 Corinthians 14:40 (Parallel theme): Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

Proverbs 28:13 (Parallel theme): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

1 Chronicles 15:2 (References God): Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

Deuteronomy 31:9 (References Lord): And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

Numbers 7:9 (Parallel theme): But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none: because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear upon their shoulders.

Numbers 4:15 (Creation): And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.