

# 1 Samuel 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Beth-shemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

## Analysis

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**And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Beth-shemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.**

Divine providence directed the cart to stop at a specific location - the field of Joshua (whose name means 'salvation') beside a great stone suitable for an altar. The Hebrew 'even gedolah' (great stone) would serve both as altar and memorial. The people's immediate response demonstrates proper instinct: the cart that carried the Ark becomes fuel for sacrifice, and the cows that pulled it become offerings. This transformation of transport into worship shows that everything touched by sacred service belongs ultimately to God. The burnt offering ('olah', meaning 'ascending') represented complete consecration - the entire animal consumed by fire, symbolizing total dedication. Yet even this proper impulse contained improper elements: the men of Beth-shemesh, though in Levitical territory, were not all priests authorized to offer sacrifice.

## Historical Context

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The sacrifice of the cows followed ancient Near Eastern practice of not returning to secular use animals employed in sacred transport. The 'great stone' may have

served as a natural altar, though Mosaic law typically required unhewn stones (Exodus 20:25). This field became a lasting memorial, referenced in verse 18.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the transformation of the cart and cows into offerings illustrate the principle that sacred service consecrates what it touches?
2. What balance must be maintained between spontaneous worship and proper procedure?

## Interlinear Text

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הַשְּׁמִשִּׁי	בֵּית	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	שָׂדֵה	אֶל	בָּאָה	הָעֵגְלָה
	H0	H3091	H7704	H413	H935	H5699
a Bethshemite		of Joshua	into the field	came		And the cart
H1030						
וַיִּבְקְעוּ	גְדוֹלָה	אֶבֶן	וְשָׁם	שָׁם	וַתֵּעַמַּד	
	H1419	H68	H8033	H8033	H5975	
and they clave	there where there was a great	stone		and stood		
H1234						
עַל־הָ	הָעֵלָו	הַפָּרוֹת	וְאֵת	הָעֵגְלָה	עֵץ־י	אֶת־
	H5927	H6510	H853	H5699	H6086	H853
a burnt offering	and offered	the kine	And the cart		the wood	
H5930						
לַיהוָה:						
unto the LORD						
H3068						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 24:22** (Sacrifice): And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

**Judges 21:4** (Sacrifice): And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

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