

7

God's Wrath & Blessing

2 Samuel 6

In the Chronicles of Narnia we are introduced to Aslan, the son of the great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea, in this way:

“Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion.”

“Ooh!” said Susan, “I'd thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”

“That you will, dearie, and no mistake,” said Mrs. Beaver. “If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly.”

“Then he isn't safe?” said Lucy.

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver. “Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Course he isn't safe. But he's good.”

GROUP DISCUSSION. How does Lewis's description of Aslan help you understand what it means to “fear the Lord”?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Why do God's goodness and his holiness sometimes seem contradictory?

In this chapter David learns in a terrible way that the Lord, the God of Israel, isn't safe. But he also gains a greater appreciation of God's goodness. *Read 2 Samuel 6.*

1. What words would you use to describe the mood of those bringing the ark to Jerusalem (vv. 1-5)?

2. Why do you think David and the people of Israel viewed this as an occasion to celebrate with all their might (v. 5)?

3. Uzzah's act of taking hold of the ark seems well-intentioned (v. 6). Why then did the Lord's anger burn against him (v. 7; see also 1 Chronicles 15:11-15)?

4. Why are sincerity and good intentions sometimes not enough to please the Lord?

5. After Uzzah died, David became both angry and afraid of the Lord (vv. 8-9). How would you evaluate his emotional response?

6. Although the Lord had struck down Uzzah, he blessed the house of Obed-Edom (vv. 10-11). What was the Lord saying about himself through these events?

7. What new precautions does David take as he moves the ark to

Jerusalem (vv. 12-15)?

8. Describe Michal's response in verses 16-20.

Now look at the information in verses 21-23. How would you evaluate her reaction?

9. In what ways was this event marked by celebration (vv. 17-19)?

10. Do your times of worship tend to be somber or joyous? Explain.

11. In what ways can you make your times of worship more of a joyous celebration?

Ask God to give you a fresh vision of his holiness and his goodness.

Now or Later

God's holiness and goodness are most clearly revealed in the cross of Christ. God's holiness demanded the death of his Son for our sins. But his goodness and love flow out from the cross offering us acceptance, forgiveness and eternal life. Take time now to worship God and to thank him for the gift of salvation.