

## **A Higher Level in God**

Following are three stories that illustrate a level of knowing God [or lack thereof] that seems to be far beyond what most of us know.

### **Peter rebuked Jesus**

When Jesus told his disciples that he would die [Matthew 16:21-23], Peter turned to him, and began rebuking him saying, “Be it far from you, Lord, this shall not happen to you.” But Jesus turned, and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan: you are offensive to me: for you do not understand God’s things but only man’s things.”

What about us? If we had been there and heard Jesus say that he was going to die, would we not have said the same thing that Peter said? If so, isn’t this saying for us also: “Get behind me, Satan: you are offensive to me: for you do not understand God’s things but man’s things.” How many times have we offended our Lord by not knowing what he was doing, or by misjudging what he was doing? This passage depicts a level of knowing the mind of God that hardly any of us have attained.

**Uzzah** - In 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 6 we read a story about the time when the ark of God’s covenant was being brought up on an ox cart. The oxen stumbled, and the ark of the covenant was about to spill out on the ground. A man named Uzzah was standing close by and stretched out his hand to the ark of God to prevent it from spilling on the ground. However, the anger of the LORD arose against Uzzah and God smote him. Why? because it was against God’s law for anyone to touch God’s ark. He died there on the spot. Now, I ask this question: How many of us would have done what Uzzah did? Probably just about every one of us. Doesn’t this story depict a level of needing to know and believe God at a level that hardly any of us have attained?

### **Saul**

In 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 10-13 there is a story about a king, who failed to believe and trust God in a difficult circumstance. The prophet Samuel told King Saul to “go down ahead me to Gilgal. I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice the peace offerings.” And he told hm, “Seven days you must wait till I come to you, and show you what you are to do.”

However, the enemies, the Philistines, gathered to fight with Israel with people “as many as the sand which is on the sea shore.”

King Saul and the soldiers with him were very distressed at the sight of such a large army camping against them, and many started running away. Saul waited seven days according to the set time that Samuel had appointed, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal. The soldiers were still scattering from King Saul and he finally decided to do the sacrificial offering that was required before going into battle. Only the priests were allowed to do that. However, just as soon as King Saul had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Samuel came. Samuel said to him, “What have you done?” Saul started making excuses, explaining that the people were scattered from him and that “you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were gathering. Therefore I said, ‘The Philistines will come down now on me, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering’.”

King Saul was doing what he thought was right to fight his nation’s battle, but he lost his kingdom for not doing “everything that was commanded him.” How many times we have done things we thought were right, but failed to do according to God’s perfect will. Our loses have been great. How many will wait continually on the Lord and come into that higher level of knowing God?