

Christ's GUIDANCE Felt In Ministers' Conference

*New PLANS — new MINISTERS — new local CHURCHES
result from Ministerial Conference just completed!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

THE REAL living HEAD of God's Church—Jesus Christ—has just led His ministers through another successful *Ministerial Conference* here at Headquarters in Pasadena!

From England and Australia, from Canada and the Philippines, from all parts of the United States and even far-off South Africa, the servants of Jesus Christ gathered January 7 through 15 in the annual Conference of God's ministers. The direct *presence* and *inspiration* of Jesus Christ was asked for—and it was definitely felt.

The love, warmth and UNITY which is peculiar to God's Church *alone* was also felt in the many and varied business and social activities which took place during the Conference. For the men who are *servicing* God's people, the men who have come through Ambassador College, the men who comprise the "team" through which Christ is directly working today—*these men LOVE each other!* And that love is so genuine, obvious and discernible that it was even commented upon by outsiders during the course of this year's Conference.

That, of course, is as it should be. For this is the "Philadelphia" era of God's Church described in Revelation 3:7-12. "Philadelphia" literally means—in the Greek language—"brotherly love." We can only be thankful and grateful to GOD that He has caused that attitude of *love* and *affection* to permeate the fellowship of His people and His ministers.

The Conference Agenda

Many plans for the growth of the over-all Work were discussed during the Conference, but many of these are being given you by Mr. Armstrong in Co-Worker and member letters. And

the plans regarding new churches and ministerial assignments will be discussed later in this article.

The most important discussion under our section on doctrine and Christian living centered around the "spirit in man" this year. Mr. Herbert Armstrong introduced this topic, and has been doing a great deal of research into this matter.

Suffice it to say at this time that all of us began to realize more and more deeply that man has a type of spirit essence connected with his mind which relates him directly to GOD—not the lower creatures of the animal kingdom! This "spirit" is undoubtedly the means by which God actually *transcribes* or preserves our individual *characters* and *personalities* so that they may be placed in our *spirit bodies* at the resurrection—or back in bodies composed of *matter* for those who will not come up again

until the Great White Throne Judgment.

In going through many, many questions on marriage problems, tithing problems, healing problems and other difficult situations, it became more and more apparent that one of the great things lacking in many of God's people is the WISDOM to solve these personal problems before they come to the "breaking point" in the first place.

God tells us in James 1:5 that if we *lack wisdom* we should ASK of GOD. This is instruction which *every one of you needs to be applying!* For MOST of the terrible situations in which our ministers sometimes find God's people could be AVOIDED if they had used proper tact, patience and wisdom in the first place.

So TAKE HEED to any sermons from your minister on this matter—or to any articles coming in *The GOOD NEWS*

Ministers enjoy evening of fellowship! Many were close friends during college days. The yearly Conference creates opportunity to renew old acquaintances.



in future numbers regarding this *most important subject*.

Because of these problems, and the over-all tremendous and growing NEED of God's people for personal help and guidance, Mr. Armstrong brought out that many more *Local Elders* are needed among the lay-members of God's Church. These should, in the main, be men who *already* have stable and permanent jobs but who can dedicate themselves to SERVE their fellow brethren in the local area by visiting and anointing on the Sabbaths and certain evenings through the week. These should be men who are truly MATURE spiritually and men who have DEDICATED their lives unreservedly into the hands of Jesus Christ. They should certainly be able to fulfill the qualifications for Local Elders found in I Timothy 3 and who would look on the office of Local Elder as an opportunity to GIVE and *serve*, not to TAKE or *exalt the self*.

Let us all PRAY for more such laborers in God's service!

Several inspiring social events were scheduled for the ministers and their wives during the Conference, but the outstanding of these was the Ministerial Banquet given by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong. This banquet was held in the beautiful William Davies Memorial Hall in Altadena, and was an inspiring evening of warm fellowship, delicious food and a resumé of "old times" by Mr. Armstrong toward the end of the evening.

Since there was no formal program planned because of the rush of activities, Mr. Armstrong simply began to talk to several of the ministers nearby. Soon the entire banquet hall quieted down and he was talking to *everyone*—well over 100 ministers and their wives gathered for this fine occasion!

Mr. Armstrong reviewed how he and Mrs. Armstrong had had to start this Work practically *alone*, how just the two of them *alone* kept the first Feast of Tabernacles, and how Christ had granted the tremendous GROWTH we now see step by step over a long and difficult period. It was certainly a memorable and inspiring way for the banquet to conclude, and many will not forget Mr. Armstrong's remarks

in the years to come when we think "we have it rough"!

Twenty-One Ministers Ordained!

One of the highlights of this year's Conference was the ordination—including raising in rank—of exactly *twenty-one* ministers of Christ! We didn't directly plan it this way, but it is certainly interesting to see how the perfect number, *seven*, or the number of organizational beginnings, *twelve*, does surely seem to follow the Work of CHRIST everywhere!

First of all, two of our most outstanding leaders in God's Church were elevated from Pastor rank to the Evangelist rank in Christ's ministry. First was Mr. Dean Blackwell—minister of Christ for about ten years now and District Superintendent over the churches in the Northern Midwest in the United States. Those who know of Mr. Blackwell's constant service and dedication first-hand will quickly understand why he has now been ordained as Evangelist in the Church of God.

Next to be made Evangelist was Mr. Charles Hunting—an outstanding member and businessman who gave up his business career to come to Ambassador College and later become a minister, professor of theology, and Business Manager of God's Work in England. The tremendous enthusiasm, dedication, and ability of Mr. Hunting made evident his selection also as one of God's Evangelists.

Next, a total of seventeen of our Preaching Elders were elevated to the rank of full *Pastor* in God's Church. All but two of these were ordained during the Conference itself, and the remaining two have since been ordained by Mr. Raymond McNair and Mr. Charles Hunting at Ambassador College in England.

Seventeen New Pastors

In alphabetical order, these new *Pastor*-rank ministers are as follows:

Mr. David Antion—Pastor over God's Churches in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Mr. Dibar Apartian—Director of the French Work and voice of *The WORLD TOMORROW* in the French

language. Mr. Ronald Dart—ordained in England where he is professor at Ambassador College, U. K., and ministers in the nearby British Churches. Dr. Charles Dorothy—Pastor of the San Bernardino Church and professor here in Ambassador College, Pasadena. Mr. Roger Foster—Pastor of God's Churches in Wichita and Liberal, Kansas. Mr. Jimmy Friddle—Pastor of God's Churches in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. Mr. John Hammer—Pastor over the churches in San Antonio and Corpus Christi, Texas. Mr. Dale Hampton—Pastor in the Eugene and Medford, Oregon, Churches. Mr. Ronald Kelly—Administrative Assistant at Headquarters, instructor in Ambassador College. Mr. Leslie McCullough—Administrative Assistant at Headquarters, instructor in the college and Pastor over the El Monte Church. Mr. Bill McDowell—Pastor over the churches in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Akron, Ohio. Mr. Burk McNair—Pastor over God's Churches in Denver and Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Ernest Martin—Associate Professor at Ambassador College, U. K., and Pastor of the Manchester congregation. Mr. Leroy Neff—now Business Manager over our huge plant at Big Sandy, Texas, and Associate Pastor in the Gladewater Church. Mr. Kenneth Swisher—Superintendent over the churches in the Southwest and Pastor at Gladewater, Texas, and Minden, Louisiana. Mr. Dean Wilson—Director of the Canadian Work and Pastor over the Vancouver Church. Dr. Clint Zimmerman—Director of the Letter Answering Department and Pastor of the Bakersfield Church.

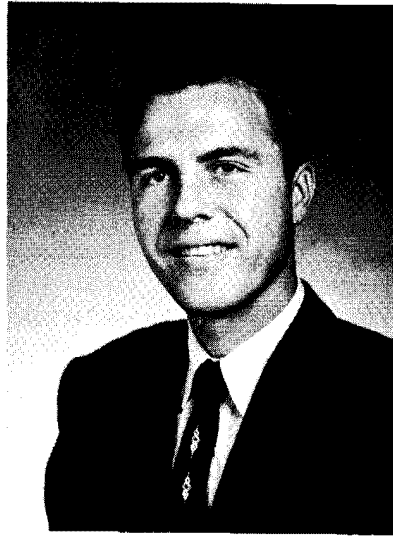
Others Ordained

In addition to the above, Mr. Leon Walker—assistant to Dr. Benjamin Rea in the Spanish Work in England—was raised from the rank of Local Elder to *Preaching Elder* in God's Church. Also, Mr. Lowell Blackwell—brother of Mr. Dean Blackwell—was ordained to the rank of *Local Elder* for his work among the brethren in the North Hollywood and Santa Barbara church areas.

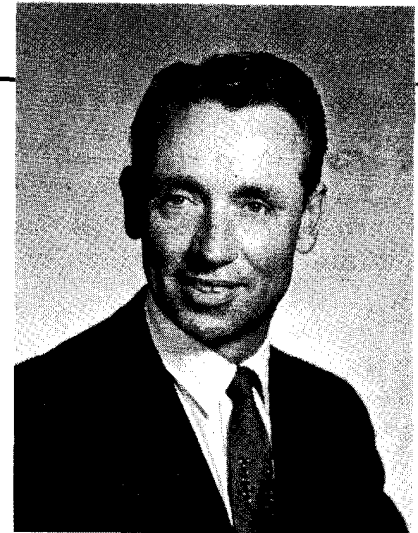
Another special event was the ordi-

nation to the office of *Deacon* of Mr. Trevor Higgins from God's Church in Sydney, Australia, who accompanied Mr. Wayne Cole to Pasadena for the Conference. Mr. Higgins, an outstandingly successful businessman and able leader and Spokesman Club President in the Sydney congregation, was certainly surprised to have a part in this ordination service at God's Headquarters in Pasadena!

Significantly, the total number of ministerial ordinations was *exactly* TWENTY-ONE or *three times seven!* Since God's number of *completion* or *perfection* is seven, and His number of *organizational beginnings* is twelve—



Mr. Dean Blackwell, *Evangelist*



Mr. Charles Hunting, *Evangelist*



Pastors

TOP ROW

- Dr. Clint Zimmerman
- Mr. Bill McDowell
- Mr. Ron Kelly
- Mr. Les McCullough
- Mr. Dale Hampton
- Mr. Dean Wilson
- Mr. David Antion

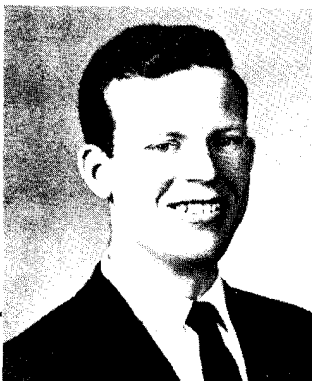
MIDDLE ROW

- Mr. Roger Foster
- Mr. Burk McNair
- Mr. Dibar Apartian
- Mr. Ken Swisher
- Mr. Jim Friddle
- Mr. Leroy Neff

BOTTOM ROW

- Mr. Tony Hammer
- Dr. Charles Dorothy

Mr. Ernest Martin, *Pastor*



Mr. Ronald Dart, *Pastor*



it does seem significant that almost *in spite of ourselves* these numbers seem to keep following God's ministers and His true Church today!

Also, with these new ordinations and elevations in rank, we now have one Pastor General under Christ over the entire Church, exactly *twelve* Evangelists, exactly *twenty-one* Pastors,

twenty-six Preaching Elders, and thirty-seven Local Elders. Mr. Herbert Armstrong was especially pleased that at last the number of top-ranking ministers, or Evangelists, under him total exactly *twelve*—as did Jesus' Apostles.

CONGRATULATIONS, ministers of God!

And brethren everywhere, let us all unite in giving God great THANKS and PRAISE for increasing in both numbers and power the servants in His true Church today!

Three New Churches Being Established

During and just after the Ministerial Conferences, a total of THREE new churches are being established! This includes the new church in Glasgow, Scotland, raised up by Mr. Raymond McNair—Director over God's Work in the British Isles. The first service was held on the Sabbath of January 11, 1964, with a total of sixty-two in attendance. Thus, the Glasgow Church started out larger than any of our other churches in the British Isles.

This makes the *seventh church* in Britain. We now have congregations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and England with over *seven hundred fifty* in attendance at these *seven* locations each Sabbath! So God's Work in England is certainly GROWING—even though local radio time is still unobtainable.

The other two churches are soon to begin in the Northern Midwest in Danville, Illinois, and in Lexington, Kentucky. The new Danville Church will be pastored by Mr. John Bald—currently Co-Pastor at Indianapolis—

Mr. Leon Walker, Preaching Elder



who will now become full Pastor over both Indianapolis and Danville. The new church in Lexington, Kentucky, will be pastored by Mr. Carn Catherwood—who will continue also as Pastor of God's Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Both these new churches should start off with well over one hundred in attendance and should prove to be a real BLESSING to the members in these areas!

Twelve New Bible Studies

In addition, exactly TWELVE new Bible studies are soon to begin! In all but one case, these studies will only be held *once a month* at first but may, of course, be converted into regular studies or possibly churches in future months and years.

These new *regular* monthly Bible studies will soon be starting in Spokane, Washington; in Kearney, Nebraska; in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; in Poplar Bluff, Missouri; in Bismark, North Dakota; in Richland Center, Wisconsin; in Asheville, North Carolina; in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; in Columbus, Ohio; in Wheeling, West Virginia; in Austin, Texas; and a bimonthly or weekly Bible study in Lufkin, Texas.

If you brethren will notice the location of these areas on a map you will see that most of them are located on the perimeter of various church areas and are far enough away in each case that the brethren there may not be able to attend *any* church regularly. Thus, these new Bible studies represent an opportunity for literally HUNDREDS of God's people to meet regularly for the first time in their lives!

Mr. Lowell Blackwell, Local Elder



Again, let's be THANKFUL for what CHRIST is making possible!

The THEME of the Visiting Ministers' Sermons

One of the most inspiring events during each Ministerial Conference is the weekly Sabbath when we can have *all-day services* and hear from the visiting ministers. This year, as usual, particularly *inspiring* messages were given by these men of God to His Headquarters Church.

Mr. Charles Hunting—now elevated to Evangelist rank—led the way since he arrived early and spoke on the Friday night previous to the all-day Sabbath services during the regular Conference period. Mr. Hunting gave a very moving and powerful sermon showing how down through history God's *glory* and POWER was revealed directly to Lucifer who *turned aside*; to Adam who *turned aside*; and to *millions* of people in the ages of Enoch, Noah, Moses, and the latter prophets—yet they all TURNED ASIDE without fully *grasping* and *respecting* the POWER God revealed through His earthly Headquarters and chosen servants in each age! We must *take heed* and RESPECT what God is doing through His servants *today*!

Following the same theme—although he arrived several days after Mr. Hunting's sermon was given—Mr. Wayne Cole from Australia reviewed again how the outlying brethren must be taught to "LOOK TO HEADQUARTERS" because that is where CHRIST is working! We must all learn to *respect* and *believe* in the great WORK which Christ is doing through His Church today.

In his sermon, Mr. Dean Blackwell brought out striking examples of the DRIVE and ZEAL displayed by President Johnson during his life as a leader of our nation. He pointed out that the real PEAK of man's worth and happiness is achieved only through *unselfish SERVICE* to God and fellow man. He reminded us that this is a Work of GIVING the most precious thing in existence to all the world as a witness, and preparing to *directly teach* even the natives of Africa and Asia these pre-

(Please continue on page 15)

Thousands are being *healed!* Many write of **CANCERS** disappearing; of total **BLINDNESS** being healed; of **DEAFNESS** being cured; of demons being cast out!

But the **GREATEST** evidence of God's power in His Church today is that multiple **MILLIONS** are hearing the very same Gospel Jesus preached!

Think of the veritable *sea* of humanity hearing every **WORLD TOMORROW** program! Of the more than **ONE MILLION** reading *The PLAIN TRUTH!* Truly, **GREATER** works are being done! This really *IS* the **ONE True Church** of the great, living **GOD!**

God says, to each of *you*. "For **YE** are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest [even though it would have **FRIGHTENED** and **AWED** you, had you seen it!], And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words . . . But **ye** are come unto mount **Sion**, and unto

the city of the LIVING GOD, the heavenly Jerusalem [The Church], and to an **INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS**, To the general assembly and church of the **FIRSTBORN**, which are written in heaven, and to **GOD the JUDGE OF ALL**, and to the spirits of just men *made perfect*, And to **JESUS the Mediator of the new covenant . . .** Whose voice then **SHOOK THE EARTH!** but now He hath promised, saying, *Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.* And this word, *Yet once more*, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which *cannot be shaken may remain.* Wherefore **WE RECEIVING A KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE MOVED**, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with *reverence and godly fear:* For *our God is a consuming fire!*" (Heb. 12:18-29).

And **THAT**, brethren of God's **TRUE Church** is **POWER!!!**

and teaching the **SYSTEM** of God to the people of the earth at the beginning of the Millennium who will have just lived through *this modern world* in which **WE** have grown up and *understand.*

Thus, *Christ* has established the Ambassador Colleges whose motto is "*Recapture True Values.*" **We** in God's Church today—and particularly its leaders through the colleges on a day-to-day basis—are able to *recapture* and **APPLY** those values in the field of marriage, child rearing, correct social life, sports and **EVERY** phase and facet of the full and abundant life which Christ wants all the world to someday enjoy (John 10:10).

Once again, God has established a temporary, earthly "**Headquarters**"—this time in Pasadena, California—to properly sort out, assimilate and **REVEAL** in many details this **PATTERN** of God's way of life to His Church today. Thus, if all of us can learn to **RESPOND** to Christ working through His Headquarters and servants today and learn fully this "*way of life*"—we can indeed become fit to be the "pillars" at God's Headquarters at Jerusalem to help set the **PATTERN** for *re-educating the entire earth!*

For God says of the Philadelphia Church *particularly:* "Him that overcometh will I make a **PILLAR** in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Rev. 3:12).

With the modern communication facilities which He has now opened to our use, Christ is now *more than at any time before* using a **HEADQUARTERS CHURCH** through which to reveal in *many details* an entire **PATTERN** of life which we must **ALL** learn in order to be able to fulfill *our future job!*

All of us who make up the very **BODY** of Jesus Christ in this age must learn to be **RESPONSIVE** to the articles emanating from God's Headquarters on child rearing, marriage, foods, and the entire **WAY OF LIFE** which Christ wants us to **UNDERSTAND** and **LIVE.** Thus,

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 6)

cious truths in a few years in Christ's Kingdom.

Mr. Raymond Cole then brought out how we must master the **SELF** before we are able to go on and serve others. And Mr. David Antion followed on with a sermon showing how we must *keep our eyes on the GOAL!* We must not be *distracted* or *discouraged* by our problems, but give our attention to **GOD** and to the **POWER** and **GLORY** which lie ahead.

In the closing sermon, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong powerfully exhorted us that we must learn to **YIELD** ourselves as plastic clay in God's hands so that we may be *assimilated* by the body of Christ just as physical food must be of the right consistency to be absorbed by our physical bodies. We must learn to look to **CHRIST** and to His **HEADQUARTERS WORK** in order to be fashioned properly as part of the body which **HE** is building today! We must **RID OURSELVES** of *presumptuousness, self-will* and *rebellion* or we will have to be **SPEWED OUT** as Christ warned the Laodicean Church (Rev. 3:16).

The Work **CHRIST** is Leading Us to Perform

Going back a bit in time now, I want briefly to review Mr. Waterhouse's sermon given on the Friday night *during* the Conference which continued on and expanded the theme which Mr. Hunting started the previous Friday night and which Mr. Wayne Cole also spoke upon. For this *theme* seemed to be particularly predominant during this year's Ministerial Conference—and was expanded even further by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse speaking in a student Forum after the Conference had closed.

Mr. Waterhouse brought out in a most striking manner how Jesus Christ is developing *through us* the **SYSTEM** and *way of life* which will soon be taught the **ENTIRE EARTH** during the Millennium. Although **Enoch** will be particularly helpful in dealing with the people of his age when they are resurrected, **Noah** with those of his age, and so on, the Church of God in **THIS AGE** is *particularly responsible* for learning

we may be fully qualified to function as a "team" from God's Headquarters in Jerusalem in a few years and teach with UNITY this right and wonderful WAY to all the peoples of the earth!

Ask God in heaven to help *you*, personally, to GRASP this *awesome responsibility* which you will be shouldering in a few years! And ask Him to help you APPRECIATE the glorified spirit body you will then have and the wonderful opportunity you will have to

SERVE *all humanity* from "World Headquarters," Jerusalem, Palestine!

Since this THEME seemed to predominate through so much of the Conference and the days which immediately followed, I felt compelled to share it with all of you brethren around the world. May God help all of you to WORK, to PRAY—and to give God THANKS—for this tremendous and inspiring GOAL which He is now setting before *every single one of us!*

and he smote him, BECAUSE HE PUT HIS HAND to the ark: and there he died before God" (I Chron. 13:9-10).

This was the CLIMAX to a *series of disobedient acts*. An attitude was beginning—which if not halted—would have quickly led to a complete casting aside of *other laws*.

In I Chronicles 15, we receive more of the background. It becomes quite clear why God *had to* forcibly intervene.

Beginning with Verse 2 in Chapter 15, we read:

"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!"

As we have seen the ark was to be *carried*—not hauled by a cart. Also, the *Levites were to attend* to this business—not individuals of other tribes.

Now continue reading in Verse 11: "And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites . . . And said unto them . . . sanctify yourselves . . . that ye may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel . . ."

"For because ye DID IT NOT AT THE FIRST, the Lord our God made a breach [by killing Uzza] upon us, for that we *sought him not* after the DUE ORDER!"

There had been *rank disobedience*. The ark was not transported according to "*due order*"—or according to the laws set down in the book of Numbers.

God made it quite clear to the Levites, the people and to David that He *would not tolerate* disobedience. God knew what the end of those things would have been.

He *stamped out* disobedience before it spread.

God said in I Corinthians 10:11 that, "All these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for OUR ADMONITION, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

This example should teach us to live our life *in accordance* with the laws of God. It should teach us that God *backs up His laws with force and power!* HE MEANS *what He says*—and SAYS WHAT HE MEANS!

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Please address any questions YOU would like answered in this column to the Editor.

In I Chronicles 13:9, we read, "Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him . . . and there he died before God." WHY did God kill a man for the simple act of trying to steady the ark—when it was about to fall over? On the surface, it would appear to be a very innocent act.

God had instructed those responsible for carrying the ark—that they should CARRY IT ON THEIR SHOULDERS! Notice, Numbers 7:1-9, "Unto the sons of Kohath he gave none [oxen and carts]: because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear it ON THEIR SHOULDERS!"

This was the first disobedient act.

Notice! David had consulted with *the people* and had done the thing which "was right in the eyes of all *the people*" (I Chron. 13:1-4). He *did not* consult God's law on this matter—which was clear and explicit.

Instead of having the *Levites* carry the ark, David had the ark *put in a cart!* "And they carried the ark [made the ark to ride, margin] in a *new cart* . . . and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart" (I Chron. 13:7).

SECONDLY, the *descendants of the family of Kohath* (son of Levi) were

to have the responsibility of transporting the ark on their shoulders.

Read Numbers 4:15. "And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary . . . the SONS OF KOHATH shall come to bear it."

This was the second act of disobedience.

From the parallel account in II Samuel 6, it is quite clear that Abinadab's sons—Uzza and Ahio—were of the TRIBE OF JUDAH. They were NOT AUTHORIZED BY GOD to transport the ark. This was another breach of a very explicit command.

The responsibility of carrying the most holy articles—which included the ark—was the SOLE RESPONSIBILITY of the sons of Kohath. See Numbers 4!

THIRDLY, no person—besides Aaron and his sons—were to touch the ark, or any of the holy things. *The penalty for disobedience was CLEARLY STATED in Numbers 4:15.*

"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!!"

But Uzza *disobeyed* this clear command. "And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to HOLD THE ARK; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza,