

unimportant at another time or under other circumstances.

Student question: [unclear]. AAM: Yes, there is moral law and there is ceremonial law which has the purpose of driving home to people's minds and setting before them the ideas that God wants them to have. There are also certain regulations about how to carry this out. Under certain circumstances and in certain situations, you can not carry these things out! If you are indifferent and pay no attention to His commandment, it is an attitude of defiance against God.

Thus when they put the ark on a cart instead of carrying it the way God had stipulated, it was a very serious matter. The ark was being brought back to the people. It was a time of all times when they should have put God's word in a primary position and say, "How are we to do this? What is God's regulation?" Instead they just stuck it on a cart and started to carry it along a bumpy road and when the ark began to fall over Uzzah put out his hand to hold it and the Lord struck Uzzah dead. It does not mean that Uzzah was a worse sinner than the other men around, but it does mean that God wanted to give them an object lesson about carrying out His commands exactly as he had given them. The manner in which they were to carry the ark was not a moral principle; it was a matter of their attitude toward His law for that time.

Under ordinary situations it was vital to carry out the ceremonial law in order to drive the thoughts home to the people's minds. It was far more important to get the thought into their minds than it was to carry them out in exact ways. The exact way was vital when it could be done reasonably. When there were unusual situations there was no reason why there could not be modifications to fit the circumstance. We have to think of the purpose of it all. Some people have the idea that God is a terrible ogre who wants to make everything just as difficult for us as is possible and so he lays down a thousand regulations and we just have to watch our step. If we accidentally step a little too far this way or that way we bring ourselves into terrible danger. This is quite wrong; it is not God's purpose at all. God is a loving father, who is anxious to help his people and to lead them. So He lays down regulations for their well being: regulations as to how they are to learn