



## 42: Sin, Repentance, & Sacrifice (2 Samuel 24)

*Even Israel's greatest king fell into sin—but his failure points us toward the mercy of God and our desperate need for a greater King. Today we conclude 2 Samuel and discover how sin, repentance, and sacrifice ultimately leave us looking to Jesus.*

**beourguest**

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register with our **CONNECT CARD**.

- Use our **WI-FI: Worship Center Guest**

**getourapp**

Download our **CHURCH APP** for sermons & notes, ways to connect, upcoming events, online giving, & more.



APP & NOTES



CONNECT CARD



GIVE

**teachingnotes**

\* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) and NET (New English Translation).

### 2 Samuel 24:1

The LORD's anger burned against Israel again, and He stirred up David against them to say, "Go, count the people of Israel and Judah."

**Yahweh's anger burned against Israel.** We aren't told WHEN or WHY, but we DO KNOW that Yahweh is slow to anger, abounding in love, but full of JUSTICE - and JUSTICE is about to fall.

**He stirred up David to go count the people.** This puts us in a dilemma because we will later see that *Yahweh holds David accountable for SINNING against Him* for doing this. But if that's the case, then *why has Yahweh stirred David up to do this?*

- Sometimes we have to struggle through what is written and take our best shot at harmonizing *the unclear* in light of what *IS clear*. This is what we must do in the this passage as well. The parallel passage from 1 Chronicles says:

**1 Chronicles 21:1** NET 2nd ed. **An adversary** opposed Israel, inciting David to count how many warriors Israel had.

Many translations (ESV, CSB, NIV) translate this as "Satan." The Hebrew word שָׂטָן (*satan*) can refer to an **adversary** in general or Satan in particular. There is no article accompanying the term here, which suggests it should be understood generally as "a satan" or "an adversary".<sup>1</sup>

Yahweh allows **an adversary**—whether a spiritual adversary or some other opponent—to come against Israel and incite David to count Israel's fighting men. David gives in, choosing to focus on the strength of his military rather than the strength of Yahweh.

### 2 Samuel 24:2-3

So the king said to Joab, the commander of his army, "Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba and register the troops so I can know their number." Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times more than they are—while my lord the king looks on! But why does my lord the king want to do this?"

**Joab** understands that this is NOT a good move. God had commanded censuses before. The problem seems to be what David was trusting the numbers to tell him. David wants to know the strength of his army, and the implication is that the king who once trusted Yahweh against Goliath is now tempted to trust the size of his military. In so doing, David shows that **he has become prideful** rather than *humble* - trusting his strength rather than the strength of Yahweh.

### 2 Samuel 24:4-9

Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army left the king's presence to register the troops of Israel. They crossed the Jordan and camped in Aroer, south of the town in the middle of the valley, and then proceeded toward Gad and Jazer. They went to Gilead and to the land of the Hittites and continued on to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon. They went to the fortress of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites. Afterward, they went to the Negev of Judah at Beer-sheba. When they had gone through the whole land, they returned to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. Joab gave the king the total of the registration of the troops. There were eight hundred thousand valiant armed men from Israel and five hundred thousand men from Judah.

**9 Months & 20 Days** - That's A LOT of time to invest in counting the troops!

**800,000 from Israel & 500,000 from Judah.** That's 1.3 million fighting men! Whatever questions we may have about how these ancient military totals were calculated, the author's point is unmistakable: **David sees an enormous military force at his disposal.** David's army is large and strong! He has much to be proud of, BUT...

<sup>1</sup> Biblical Studies Press, The NET Bible, Second Edition. (Denmark: Thomas Nelson, 2019).

**2 Samuel 24:10** David's conscience troubled him after he had taken a census of the troops. He said to the LORD, "**I have sinned greatly** in what I've done. Now, LORD, because I've been very foolish, please take away your servant's guilt."

David had **sinned greatly** - relying on his military might rather than the Presence & power of Yahweh. Remember when - years before - the young shepherd boy stood against the mighty Philistine giant - TRUSTING YAHWEH more than his own abilities? The young David didn't need to know *how many soldiers stood behind him* because he knew Who stood with him. But the older David wants to count his soldiers.

✗ Years earlier, when David sinned with Bathsheba and against Uriah, his first instinct was to cover his tracks.

✓ Now David's first instinct is confession. David has learned something about repentance: **don't hide from God—run to Him**. Repentance isn't merely feeling terrible about what we've done.

**BIG TRUTH: Repentance owns our wicked sin while running toward God's merciful arms.**

**2 Samuel 24:11-14**

When David got up in the morning, **the word of the LORD** had come to the prophet Gad, David's seer: "Go and say to David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am offering you three choices. Choose one of them, and I will do it to you.'"

So Gad went to David, told him **the choices**, and asked him, "Do you want three years of famine to come on your land, to flee from your foes three months while they pursue you, or to have a plague in your land three days? Now, consider carefully what answer I should take back to **the One who sent me**."

David answered Gad, "I have great anxiety. Please, let us fall into the LORD's hands because his mercies are great, but don't let me fall into human hands."

David doesn't like ANY of those choices, but David will trust Yahweh pouring out His judgment for **3 days**, knowing that **Yahweh's mercies are great**.

**2 Samuel 24:15-16** So **the LORD** sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the appointed time, and from Dan to Beersheba **seventy thousand men died**. Then the angel extended his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, but the LORD relented concerning the destruction and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

David said **Yahweh's mercies are great**—and before Jerusalem is destroyed, we SEE that mercy. In the middle of judgment, Yahweh says, "**Enough!**"

**2 Samuel 24:17**

When David saw the angel striking the people, he said to the LORD, "Look, I am the one who has sinned; I am the one who has done wrong. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let Your hand be against me and my father's family."

Many of the people HAD sinned against Yahweh, which is why He was angry in the first place (2 Sam 24:1). But here we once again see David accepting the responsibility for his sin AND...becoming a mediator for his people - **willing to take the punishment for sin so his people don't have to**. Do you hear the shepherd in David again? Long before he was a king, David protected his father's sheep from lions and bears. Now the king looks at Israel and calls them 'sheep'—and once again the shepherd wants to put himself between the sheep and death.

✗ David is willing to die for the sheep—but **David is one of the guilty ones!**

🕒 Israel needs a Shepherd who can stand in the place of the sheep without having sin of His own.

**2 Samuel 24:18-20**

Gad came to David that day and said to him, "Go up and **set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor** of Araunah the Jebusite." David went up in obedience to Gad's command, just as the LORD had commanded. Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants coming toward him, so he went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground.

A good **threshing floor** was normally on a hill where the stalks of grain were collected and placed on a flat area of packed earth or exposed rock, where an ox or a sledge loosened the kernel from the heads of grain. Afterward, the farmer would use a winnowing fork to throw the loosened grain into the air. The heavier kernels would fall back to the threshing floor while the lighter chaff would blow away in the wind. It was at this particular piece of land, on top of a rocky hill, that David was to **set up an altar to Yahweh**.

**2 Chronicles 3:1** Then **Solomon began to build the LORD's temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah** where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the site David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Yahweh sends David to this spot, to sacrifice to Him there - **on Mount Moriah**. This place takes us all the way back to Genesis 22, when Abraham went into the land of Moriah to offer Isaac.

• On **Moriah**, Abraham learned that God provides the sacrifice. Here, David learns that Yahweh Himself provides the way for judgment to be turned away through sacrifice. And ultimately, on another day, God Himself provides THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. THIS would be the spot where David's son, Solomon, would build Yahweh's temple - where future Israelites would bring their sacrifices to Yahweh. \* **Ornan** is likely another name attached to Araunah.

## 2 Samuel 24:21-25

Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David replied, "To buy the threshing floor from you in order to build an altar to the LORD, so the plague on the people may be halted." Araunah said to David, "My lord the king may take whatever he wants and offer it. Here are the oxen for a burnt offering and the threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. Your Majesty, Araunah gives everything here to the king." Then he said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." The king answered Araunah, "No, I insist on buying it from you for a price, for I will not offer to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for twenty ounces of silver. **He built an altar to the LORD there** and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then **the LORD was receptive to prayer** for the land, and the plague on Israel ended.

2 Samuel ends with a guilty king, judgment, repentance and at an altar where sacrifice is offered and judgment stops. Centuries later, sacrifices would be offered again and again at the temple built on this very mountain. But none of those sacrifices could finally take away sin.

† Until the greater Son of David came.

- David was a guilty king *willing* to die for his people.

† Jesus was the innocent King who *DID* die for His people.

🕒 At Araunah's threshing floor, a sacrifice stopped the plague.

† At the cross, Jesus offered the sacrifice that deals with sin once and for all.

## Hebrews 9:26b

But now He has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for **the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

Before Israel even HAD a king, Hannah ended her prayer by looking forward to Yahweh's king—His anointed.

Was it Saul? No.

**Was it David?** David was certainly God's anointed king—but now we reach the end of 2 Samuel and discover that even David isn't enough.

† The story of David leaves us waiting for Jesus—the greater King, the Good Shepherd, and the final Sacrifice.

***BIG TRUTH: Repentance owns our wicked sin while running toward God's merciful arms.***

❓ What sin do you need to stop hiding, own before God, and carry straight into His merciful arms?

🕒 **Sin. Repentance. Sacrifice.** That's how Samuel ends. And every bit of it leaves us looking for Jesus.

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

# Discussion questions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. David wanted to know the strength of his army. What are some things we are tempted to count, control, or depend on instead of trusting God?
2. David's conscience troubled him, and he immediately confessed, "I have sinned greatly." What is the difference between feeling bad about sin and truly repenting of it?
3. Our BIG TRUTH says, "**Repentance owns our wicked sin while running toward God's merciful arms.**" What makes people more likely to hide from God after they sin rather than run toward Him?
4. David said, "Let us fall into the LORD's hands because His mercies are great." What does this teach us about trusting God's character even when we are experiencing the consequences of our sin?
5. In verse 17, David calls the people "sheep" and offers to suffer in their place. How does David's shepherd heart point toward Jesus—and where does David fall short of being the Shepherd Israel ultimately needed?
6. David refused to offer God a sacrifice that "cost [him] nothing." What are some ways following Jesus may require sacrifice, inconvenience, generosity, or surrender in our lives today?
7. The threshing floor became the site of Solomon's temple, where sacrifices would later be offered. How does this location—and the ending of 2 Samuel—prepare us for Jesus and His once-for-all sacrifice?
8. Looking back over Samuel, what have Saul and David taught us about the kind of King humanity really needs?
9. What sin do you need to stop hiding, own before God, and carry straight into His merciful arms?