

David

Part 25

2 Chronicles 24

1 Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go and take a census of Israel and Judah.”

2 So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, “Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are.”

3 But Joab replied to the king, “May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?”

4 The king’s word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to enroll the fighting men of Israel.

5 After crossing the Jordan, they camped near Aroer, south of the town in the gorge, and then went through Gad and on to Jazer. **6** They went to Gilead and the region of Tahtim Hodshi, and on to Dan Jaan and around toward Sidon. **7** Then they went toward the fortress of Tyre and all the towns of the Hivites and Canaanites. Finally, they went on to Beersheba in the Negev of Judah.

8 After they had gone through the entire land, they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

9 Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.

10 David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have

done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”

Vs. 1

Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go and take a census of Israel and Judah.”

- The first verse tells us that the Lord’s anger burned against Israel and then “**he** (*lower case*) incited David against them”
- At first glance it seems that the he, here is God yet **1 Chronicles 21:1** gives us a different perspective; it says, “Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.”
- The word **he** in Vs. 1 in the Hebrew is sut/sooth and is defined as: to incite, allure, instigate, or entice.
- So in 2 Samuel 24:1 the question is who is he? Is God known to incite, allure, instigate, entice?
- The best explanation for this text is that Satan prompted King David and Satan is the “he” of 2 Samuel 24:1.
- For everyone familiar with this story we know what David does here is not good. As a result God deals with David because of this census.

Even Joab in his response to David said:

Vs. 3 “May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?”

- As American's we read this story and it seems strange. It's almost a mystery as to why what David did was wrong. We have known head counts and roll calls since Kindergarten and it is actually something mandated in our country by the US Constitution every 10 years. So we ask the question what is the problem with David taking a census.

The problem is Four Fold:

1. **Exodus 30:12** "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them."
2. "The principle of **Exodus 30:12** speaks to God's ownership of His people. In the thinking of these ancient cultures, a man only had the right to count or number what belonged to him. Israel didn't belong to David; Israel belonged to God. It was up to the LORD to command a counting, and if David counted he should only do it at God's command and receiving ransom money to "atone" for the counting." **(Guzik)**
3. It's possible that David, towards the end of his life and the success became proud. Israel's position has always been reliant upon God. Never have they had the position, look what I can do. It has always been look what God can do. God ultimately allowed this for the purpose of correcting David from becoming proud.
4. Israel has never relied on themselves for provision, protection and guidance. Israel is God's who is their help and refuge in time of need.

Vs. 10

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

- David was conscience-stricken; NKJV says, David's heart condemned him. David a man after God's heart was not sinless, but he had a heart sensitive to sin when it was committed.
- We see in David's response, his example to keep a short account of sin with God. He says "Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."
- David says, I have done a very foolish thing. That is how each of us feel towards our own pride and disobedience to God, it truly is a foolish thing. If David hadn't felt this way, he wouldn't have been able to repent to God properly.

Vs. 11-17

11 Before David got up the next morning, the word of the Lord had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: **12** "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

13 So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

14 David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

15 So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. **16** When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your

hand.” The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, “I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family.”

- The Prophet Gad is introduced in the story of David.
- Gad is very significant to the life and account of David and here he is given the task to communicate to David the question: how he would like his correction?
- God gives David a choice in how he would be disciplined. Reminds me of when I got in trouble with my Grandmother and she gave me the task of pick my own switch. Those were tough decision.

David says:

Vs. 14

“Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands.”

- David would rather put himself into the hands of his upset heavenly Father more than his enemies or an extended famine.

David says:

Psalms 30:5

For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

David Builds an Altar

Vs. 18-25

18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, “Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”

19 So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad.

20 When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

21 Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”

“To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped.”

22 Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. **23** Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king.” Araunah also said to him, “May the Lord your God accept you.”

24 But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. **25** David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

The Summary of this Chapter is powerful...

Vs. 18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, “Go up and build an altar to the Lord

- Some commentators on this text speak of how God instructed David to build an altar to the Lord and by all means I believe the Lord fully instructed Gad in this way.
- But I'm also thankful the text says, Gad went to David; Gad said "Go up and build an altar to the Lord."
- The question in my mind is how many Christians today, when they fall short and sin have a friend like Gad? Someone who says let's not lay hear and wallow in the mire of shame and disbelief. Let's get up and build an altar to the Lord. Let's not run from God, let's run to him!
- The ultimate goal of the enemy is not to get you to sin, but to get you to give up.

2 John 1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- The word repentance is not a word that should scare us, but reassure us. God is quick to forgive, Jesus is our advocate and he is our atoning sacrifice.

Proverbs 24:16

for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again...

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- David is at a place where he needs to build an altar to God for the purpose of restoration.

Vs. 19

So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad.

The Threshing floor of Araunah is important for David and will continue to be a very important place.

1. This is the place where God relented from the plague on David's behalf and for Israel.
2. **2 Chronicles 3:1** tells us that the threshing floor of Araunah was on Mount Moriah; the same hill where Abraham offered Isaac and the place where Solomon will soon build the temple.
3. Araunah's threshing floor on Mount Moriah is also near the place Christ was crucified for the sins of the world.
4. What does David's altar tell us about our altars. First it is needed for every believer.
 - The previous generation great men and women of God who went before us knew it well.
 - Also the Generation after us that will do great things for the Lord will also know it well.

Vs. 22-24

22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. **23** Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you."

24 But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

- Araunah was so impressed that David would come to him and want his threshing floor that he offered it at no cost.

“Had Araunah’s noble offer been accepted, it would have been Araunah’s sacrifice, not David’s.” (Clarke)

“He who has a religion that costs him nothing, has a religion that is worth nothing: nor will any man esteem the ordinances of God, if those ordinances cost him nothing.” (Clarke)

“Where there is true, strong love to Jesus, it will cost us something. Love is the costliest of all undertakings.... But what shall we mind if we gain Christ?” (Meyer)

- David knew a cost-less sacrifice to God would only add to his iniquity. Here David responds with “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

Vs. 25

David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

What David did here is very significant:

First David sacrificed burnt offerings. The burnt offerings were to atone for sin.

Second David sacrificed fellowship offerings or peace offerings. Fellowship offerings or peace offerings were as the name indicates for peace and fellowship with God.

This shows us from the beginning to the end, David’s life was marked by the peace of God and fellowship with God.

Vs. 25b “Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.”