DAVID – Developing a Heart for God

Lessons 11: Misplaced Trust

Women in the Word Scripture Reference Notes – November 10, 2026

Scripture quoted from the ESV

Context

- Parallel account 2 Samuel 24
- These events occur toward the later part of David's reign
- Jewish tradition cites the priest and scribe Esra as the author
- Chapter 20 ends with David defeating giants and hostile armies

I Chronicles 21

The Temptation and the Sinful Census VV. 1-6

- Satan's enticement V.1 *"Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel."* Parallel: 2 Samuel 24:1. *"Again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He incited Davis against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah."* Exodus 1-2 – God is sovereign. James 1:13 – God tempts no one.
- VV.2-3 Joab resists David's order to number the people. It goes against Mosaic law. Numbers 1:1-3, Exodus 30:11-12.
- VV.4-6 David's command stood. The Census was 9 months and 20 days, (2 Samuel 24:8).

  It numbered 1,100,000 men of Israel and 470,000 men in Judah.

  Levi and Benjamin were not included. Joab did not complete the task.

Conviction and God's punishment VV.7-13

- V7-8. *"But God was displeased with this thing, and he struck Israel."* David begs for forgiveness. David completely owns his sin.

  Proverbs 28:13 *"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."* There is no deception here.
- VV.9-12 The Lord sent Gad, David's seer, to offer three forms of punishment from which he was to choose. We see a glimpse of God's mercy.
  - Three years of famine
  - Three months of devastation by his enemies
  - Three days of the sword administered by the angel of the Lord
- V.13 *"I am in great distress. Let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is very great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man."*

Judgement, Mercy, The Threshing Floor (VV.14-17)

- VV.14-*15a "So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel, and 70,000 men of Israel fell."* But God relents out of pity. *"It is enough."*
- V15b *"And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite."*
- VV.16-17 David sees the angel, with his sword drawn. He and the elders plead for mercy in humble worship. David offers himself alone to be punished. His shepherd's heart is aching.

  John 10:11 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."*

The altar is built and sacrifice is made. (VV.18-27)

- VV.18-19 Gad commands David to build an altar on Ornan's threshing floor. (Araunah 2 Samuel 24)
- VV. 20-23 Ornan and his sons are terrified by the angel. Ornan offers the threshing floor and all he has, for free.
- VV. 24-27 David will not accept the offer. He pays the full price. 600 shekels of gold.

  David builds an altar and offers sacrifices. The Lord answers with fire and commands the angel to put away his sword.

Establishment of the sanctuary site (VV.28-30)

- VV.28-30 The tabernacle stood at Gibeon, but out of fear of the angel's sword and obedience to God, David continued to make his sincere sacrifice. The plague is over.

1 Chronicles 22:1

- *"Here shall be the house of the LORD God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel."*

  Solomon builds the temple (2 Chronicles 3:1) - on Mount Moriah - the same mountain where Abraham offered his son Isaac before God intervened. (Genesis 22).

Takeaways to Reflect Upon

- Be aware of pride and self - reliance.
  Proverbs 16:5, 18
  Psalm 10:4

- Listen to Godly counsel and remain teachable.
  Proverb 11:14
  2 Timothy 3:16

- Understand the impact of our sin on others.
  Joshua 7: 11-12
  2 Samuel 12:10-12

- Own your mistakes and repent.
  James 5:16; 3:2
  1 John 1:9

- Seek mercy and forgiveness
  Micah 7:18-19
  Psalm 103:2

- Repentance calls for surrender and submission to God.
  Acts 3:19
  Psalm 51:17
  Matthew 5:23-24

- Allow God to help you turn mistakes and failure into opportunities for growth in the Lord.
  James 1:2-4
  Psalm 145:14

Next Week – November 17
Lesson 12 – Generous Giving