

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 51 – Failure Leads To The Threshing Floor – 2 Samuel 24

I. THE PRIDEFUL CENSUS v1-9

- 2 Samuel 24, paralleled in 1 Chronicles 21, is a transitional Scripture that looks forward the building of Solomon's Temple.
- David stumbles upon the site on which the Temple will be built because of his failure and need for forgiveness.

A. THE FATEFUL RESPONSE OF DAVID v1-2

- During a season of stability, King David orders a census to be taken throughout Israel in order to number his military troops.
 - The census concerned only men of military age and had a more military purpose than civilian or statistical.
 - “*from Dan to Beersheba*” – the extreme northern and southern points of the land.
- The census was an act of transgression in that it impugned the faithfulness of God in keeping His promise. 1 Sam 14:6; Isa. 31:1
- 1 Chr. 21:1 indicates that Satan had pushed through a prideful crack in David's character, causing the King to take his focus off of God. cf. Job 1,2; Zech. 3:1-4
- God had delivered David from his human enemies, but Satan was still at work against God's King and his people.

B. THE FEARFUL REACTION OF JOAB v3

- Joab saw that the census was unnecessary, and repulsed by the command, he rebuked the King for his sinful motive!

C. THE FORCEFUL RESOLVE OF DAVID v4-9

1. THE SURVEY AND THE CENSUS v4-8

- Overpowered by the King's words, Joab and his captains moved throughout the land completing the census; a work that required approximately ten months to finish.

2. THE SUMMARY AND THE STATEMENT v8-9

- Upon completion, Joab informs David as to the number of valiant soldiers residing in both Israel and Judah.

II. THE FEARFUL JUDGEMENT v10-17

A. THE INITIAL ADMISSION OF DAVID v10

- Upon hearing the report, and before any word of judgment is spoken, David's conscience is stricken. Heb. = *troubled*!
- David confesses his great sin as he becomes aware of the enormity of his willful rebellion against the LORD.
- He doesn't wait for the prophetic indictment or direction, but immediately begins to seek the LORD to take away his guilt!
- Confession alone, however, is not enough to take away his sin!

B. THE REMEDIAL INTERVENTION OF GAD v11-13

- The prophet Gad arrives to mediate the options of God's judgment upon David and the people, insisting that David choose one of three grim options: famine, sword or plague; the punitive triad found often in the prophets.
 - cf. Jer. 14:12; 15:2; 21:7,9; 24:10; 27:8; Ezek. 5:12; 6:12

C. THE CRUCIAL RESOLUTION OF DAVID v14

- David chooses to commit himself to the mercy of God rather than into the merciless hands of men!
 - cf. Isa. 10:5-12; 37:26-29; Mt. 5:38

D. THE JUDICIAL INTERVENTION OF GOD v15-16

- A resulting plague claims 70,000 of David's soldiers, an appropriate sentence upon a King who was trusting in the great number of his troops.
- This judgment is not a case of an innocent nation suffering for the sins of its leader, but includes punishment upon a people who had revolted against God's anointed King. - cf. 2 Sam. 15 & 20

E. THE ESSENTIAL CONFESSION OF DAVID v17

- Seeing Jerusalem about to be struck, David gives a more complete confession, this time accepting total responsibility!
- Like Moses before him (cf. Ex 32:32; Deut. 9:26-27), David calls judgement down on his own head.

III. THE HOPEFUL ALTAR v18-25

A. THE ORDER OF GAD v18

- David is ordered to build an altar at the threshing floor of Araunah, where the Angel of the LORD had stopped! v16
- In effect, *"Go and erect an altar that will serve as the place of atonement and as a memorial to the seriousness of sin!"*

B. THE ANSWER OF DAVID v19

- A humbled King readily responds!

C. THE OFFER OF ARAUNAH v20-24

- Although Araunah freely offers his land and the materials of his livelihood to fulfill the King's desire, David instead insists on paying the full price! cf. Gen. 23:5-15

D. THE ALTAR OF GOD v25

- David's sacrifice, presented at the designated place, is graciously accepted by God and judgment is stayed!
- David will stop with the altar, but his son, Solomon, will build the Temple on this site. cf. 1 Chr. 22:1; 2 Chr. 3:1; Gen. 22:2