

David The Great

2 Samuel 24

October 11, 2026

What happens when we begin trusting our own strength instead of God? In “**David the Great**,” this message from 2 Samuel 24 follows David’s journey from pride and self-reliance to conviction, confession, repentance, and restored worship.

David’s census reminds us that temptation does not have to become sin, godly warnings should not be ignored, and true repentance means more than admitting we were wrong. At Araunah’s threshing floor, David declares that he will not offer God a sacrifice that costs him nothing. That altar later becomes the site of the Temple and points us to Jesus—the ultimate sacrifice who paid the price for our sin.

2 Samuel 24:1-4 (NLT)

¹Once again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he caused David to harm them by taking a census. “Go and count the people of Israel and Judah,” the LORD told him. ²So the king said to Joab and the commanders of the army, “Take a census of all the tribes of Israel—from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south—so I may know how many people there are.” ³But Joab replied to the king, “May the LORD your God let you live to see a hundred times as many people as there are now! But why, my lord the king, do you want to do this?” ⁴But the king insisted that they take the census, so Joab and the commanders of the army went out to count the people of Israel.

2 Samuel 24:8-10 (NLT)

⁸Having gone through the entire land for nine months and twenty days, they returned to Jerusalem. ⁹Joab reported the number of people to the king. There were 800,000 capable warriors in Israel who could handle a sword, and 500,000 in Judah. ¹⁰But after he had taken the census, David’s **conscience began to bother him**. And he said to the LORD, “**I have sinned** greatly by taking this census. **Please forgive my guilt**, LORD, for doing this foolish thing.”

David’s Journey: His Sin to Forgiveness:

a. Temptation/Pride

James 1:13-15 (NLT)

¹³And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

1 Chronicles 21:1 (NLT)

¹Satan rose up against Israel and caused David to take a census of the people of Israel.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

An **adversary** is someone who opposes, competes with, or attacks another.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 (NLT)

¹²If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. ¹³The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. ¹⁴So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.

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b. Warning

1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NLT)

⁴⁵David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶Today **the LORD will conquer you**, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! ⁴⁷And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. **This is the LORD’s battle**, and he will give you to us!”

- c. Sin
- d. Conviction
- e. Confession
- f. Repentance

David’s Journey: Consequence to an Altar:

1. Consequence
2. Humbling self
3. Plague
4. Death Angel
5. Owned his sin
6. The Altar

2 Samuel 24:24 (NIV)

²⁴But 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.”

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

1 Chronicles 22:1(NLT)

¹Then David said, “This will be the location for the Temple of the LORD God and the place of the altar for Israel’s burnt offerings!”

Psalms 32:1-7 (NLT)

A psalm of David.

¹Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! ²Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! ³When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. *Interlude* ⁵Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.”

And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. *Interlude* ⁶Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. ⁷For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.