
2 Samuel 24:18 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 men 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 pleases him and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. ²³ O king, 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 prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

The epilogue

1 Chronicles 22:1 Then David said, The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

Sin, Judgment, Mercy, Hope

Life of David—part 12

2 Samuel 24; April 14, 2019

A story of national judgment

The problem of sin, both national and personal

2 Samuel 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.*

The complexities in this story

■ Fact #1: The anger of the Lord is against the n_____.

Complexity #1: We don't know the nation's s_____.

■ Fact #2: God's response was to test D_____.

Complexity #2: We don't know w_____ the census was sinful

1 Chronicles 21:1 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.

■ Complexity #3: Satan rose up against I_____.

Complexity #4: Satan tested D_____ to take the census.

■ *1 Chronicles 21:7 This command was also evil in the sight of God; so he punished Israel.*

Conviction of sin

2 Samuel 24:10 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, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

■ *2 Samuel 24:12 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.'"³ So Gad went to David and said to him, 'Shall there come upon 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? ..."*

■ *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 the hands of men.'"⁵ 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.*

■ *2 Samuel 24:16 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, 'Enough! Withdraw your hand.' The angel of the LORD was... at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.*

■ *2 Samuel 24:17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, 'I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family.'"*

The redemptive turn in the story
