

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Samuel Chapters 23-24 12/15-16/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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One tap mobile: +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)
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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or MapQuest (mapquest.com), AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

2 SAMUEL – Chapter 23 – David’s Last Words – (vs. 1-7); David’s Mighty Men – (vs. 8-39). Chapter 24 – David’s Census of Israel and Judah – (vs. 1-9); The Judgment of David’s Sin – (vs. 10-17); The Altar on the Threshing Floor – (vs. 18-25)!

The Last Words of David

2Sa 23:1 Now *these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:*

- ***The last words of David. The last words of a man, are often cherished.*** Because a person when he stands at the door of death, becomes more conscious of the eternal things. David has come to this place, ready to leave this realm of the material, and enter into the eternal.
- ***David left a legacy, not only for Israel, but for every saint, and child of God through the ages, in the psalms. Comfort, hope, encouragement, strength. Oh the Psalms are so rich as they minister to the people of God through all ages! What a blessing, the Psalms! Think of the loss that we would have if we did not have the Psalms! Where do we turn when we are discouraged? We flip to the Psalms, and***

you do not have to read very far, before God is speaking to you. You are encouraged, you are lifted up. You get perspective. God is on the throne! God is going to take care of it!

- **This was the whole theme of David. The LORD is in control! Rest in Him! Do not fret yourself because of the evildoers** that bring evil devices to pass! Rest in the LORD, trust also in Him. Delight thyself in the LORD! And all of the help, and the strength, the ministry of God's Spirit to our hearts, through the Psalms, the sweet psalmist of Israel. What a legacy he has left!
- **"The sweet psalmist of Israel."** *Among all the saints whose lives are recorded in Holy Writ, David possesses an experience of the most striking, varied, and instructive character. In his history we meet with trials and temptations not to be discovered, as a whole, in other saints of ancient times, and hence he is all the more suggestive a type of our Lord. David knew the trials of all ranks and conditions of men. Kings have their troubles, and David wore a crown: the peasant has his cares, and David handled a shepherd's crook: the wanderer has many hardships, and David abode in the caves of Engedi: the captain has his difficulties, and David found the sons of Zeruiah too hard for him. The psalmist was also tried in his friends, his counsellor Ahithophel forsook him, "He that eateth bread with me, hath lifted up his heel against me." His worst foes were they of his own household: his children were his greatest affliction. The temptations of poverty and wealth, of honour and reproach, of health and weakness, all tried their power upon him. He had temptations from without to disturb his peace, and from within to mar his joy. David no sooner escaped from one trial than he fell into another; no sooner emerged from one season of despondency and alarm, than he was again brought into the lowest depths, and all God's waves and billows rolled over him. It is probably from this cause that David's psalms are so universally the delight of experienced Christians. Whatever our frame of mind, whether ecstasy or depression, David has described our emotions exactly. He was an able master of the human heart because he had been tutored in the best of all schools-the school of heart-felt, personal experience. As we are instructed in the same school, as we grow matured in grace and in years, we increasingly appreciate David's psalms, and find them to be "green pastures." My soul, let David's experience cheer and counsel thee this day. (C. H. Spurgeon's Morning Reading (August 20th)*

2Sa 23:2-3 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. [3] The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.'

- **David acknowledges that these came to him from the Spirit of the Lord.** He was open, his heart was attuned to the Spirit of God.
- **The Rock of Israel of course, is none other than Jesus Christ.** Paul declares that in **(1Co 10:4)** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
- **He is the smiting rock of Daniel.** As Nebuchadnezzar saw this great image in his dream. Daniel interpreted it **(Dan 2:44)** *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.* The glorious, righteous, eternal reign of Jesus Christ! That Rock was Christ.
- **In the Song of Moses, he spoke of the Rock** that was with them, there in the wilderness. **(Deu 32:4)** *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.*
- **Here, David said it was the Rock that spoke to him.** So, the trinity, "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, God spoke to me, the Rock of Israel spoke to me." And this is what was said, David's last words. "He who rules over men must be just. Ruling in the fear of God."
- **Ruling in the fear of God.** No man can rule over man unless, he himself is consciously ruled by God. Otherwise, you have tyranny, and you have slavery.

2Sa 23:4 And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, Like the tender grass springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.

- **David is speaking here prophetically of Jesus Christ,** His kingdom, and of His reign, and the glory that will fill the earth, during the reign of Christ. God said, "And the earth shall be filled with My glory." Like the green grass, and the glorious flowers blossoming forth, on a clear day after the rains, so, the glory and the beauty of those who will be able to live and reign with Christ during the time of His glorious reign here upon the earth.

- **Right now, all of us have the chance to be ruled over by One who is just.** We have the great opportunity. We have the completion of His word, the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He loves us, and He's offering us a kingdom, and He has paid for it in the blood of His own Son, and He's placed it before you and me more clearly. We are closer to seeing the reality of this than any generation that has ever lived.

2Sa 23:5 *"Although my house is not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure (is sure!) For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase?"*

- **David acknowledged, it has not been so with me.** There were times when I did not have the fear of the LORD" Conscious now of God's grace. **"I have not been all I should be, but yet God in His grace made an everlasting covenant with me."** It is David's! It is ours also!
- **(2Sa 7:12-16)** *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. [14] I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. [15] But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. [16] And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."*
- **David went in before the LORD and knelt before God**, and he said, "Oh God who am I, that you should do this for me? That from me, the Messiah will be born! Oh LORD, what can I say." And this articulate, psalmist of Israel, the sweet psalmist of Israel for once was speechless, when he realized the glorious grace of God!
- **David speaks here.** *Although my house is not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure (sure).* The word of God is sure. It will come to pass. *For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase?* "God is my hope, He is my salvation, He is all that I desire."
- **Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant. This covenant is divine in its origin.** Oh that great word HE! Stop, my soul. God, the everlasting Father, has positively made a covenant with thee; yes, that God who spake the world into existence by a word; He, stooping from His majesty, takes hold of thy hand and makes a covenant with thee. Is it not a deed, the stupendous condescension of which might ravish our hearts forever if we could really understand it? "HE hath made with me a covenant." A king has not made a covenant with me-that were somewhat; but the Prince of the kings of the earth, Shaddai, the Lord All-sufficient, the Jehovah of ages, the everlasting Elohim, "He hath made with me an everlasting covenant." But notice, it is **particular in its application**. "Yet hath He made with ME an everlasting covenant." Here lies the sweetness of it to each believer. It is nought for me that He made peace for the world; I want to know whether He made peace for **me**! It is little that He hath made a covenant, I want to know whether He has made a covenant **with me**. Blessed is the assurance that He hath made a covenant with me! If God the Holy Ghost gives me assurance of this, then His salvation is mine, His heart is mine, He Himself is mine-**He is my God**. This covenant is **everlasting in its duration**. An everlasting covenant means a covenant which had no beginning, and which shall never, never end. How sweet amidst all the uncertainties of life, to know that "the foundation of the Lord standeth sure," and to have God's own promise, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Like dying David, I will sing of this, even though my house be not so with God as my heart desireth. (C. H. Spurgeon's Morning Reading (December 21st))
- **Am I listening, am I sure what this old king David is saying? Our LORD has made an everlasting covenant with me! It is mine tonight! His Kingdom is coming! It is shining! It is clean! It is glistening, like a morning without clouds! Is that where my heart, mind and soul are? Or am I letting the enemy distract and deceive me with all the godlessness, busyness and hopelessness of this world?**

2Sa 23:6-7 *But the sons of rebellion (Belial) shall all be as thorns thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands. [7] But the man who touches them Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place.*

- **Now, in contrast, the wicked enemies of God will be cast aside in judgment** when the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant, establishes His rule on the earth.

David's Mighty Men

2Sa 23:8 *These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.*

- Now we get a list of David's mighty men. There were the first three.
- *The Tachmonite, Adino the Eznite was chief among the captains because he had killed eight hundred man at one time.*

2Sa 23:9-10 *And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo (doe, doe - nickname for David)), the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated. [10] He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.*

- (1Ch 11:13-14) He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. So the people fled from the Philistines. [14] But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory. David had some powerful men! These were the three who were the captains over the others, and they were the three mighty men of David.
- Eleazar stood in the field, he stood his ground against the Philistines, and he was whacking them so long with his sword, that his hand locked around the sword, and he could not release it. Just like, it became a part of his body almost, an extension! He could not release his hand.

2Sa 23:11-12 *And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. [12] But he stationed himself (not alone, God was with him!) in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.*

2Sa 23:13-15 *Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. [14] David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. [15] And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"*

- The Philistines had been invading, and they had taken Bethlehem, and David said, "Oh man I am thirsty! If I could just have a drink of water from that well, now!"

2Sa 23:16 -17 *So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD. [17] And he said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.*

- **Noting the conviction of David that only the very best is to be given to the LORD, would I have drunk this water, that I so longed for, or would I have poured it out, all to Him?**

2Sa 23:18-19 *Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of another three. He lifted his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three. [19] Was he not the most honored of three? Therefore he became their captain. However, he did not attain to the first three.*

- Then next, there was another group of three. We remember Abishai saved David's life, when David had weakened in battle, and a giant was going to kill him! Abishai came and killed the giant.
- These are the guys that gathered to David, when he was in the wilderness fleeing from Saul. God brought these guys to David that were in trouble. They that were in debt, and they were powerful guys, and they made a powerful army. God often times, uses very unlikely vessels as instruments to do His work!

2Sa 23:20-21 *Benaiah (priest/warrior) was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. [21] And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.*

- (1Ch 11:23) *And he killed an Egyptian, a man of great height, five cubits (7.5 feet) tall.*

2Sa 23:22 *These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among (the second) three mighty men. [23] He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.*

- **Benaiah was the head over David's bodyguard.** He became the captain over the host, under Solomon. He replaced Joab, as chief general, after the death of David, and during the reign of Solomon. He was a valiant man. He had done many valiant acts!

2Sa 23:24 *Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,*

- **Now it gives the names of the thirty men.** For the second three, it does not give us the name of the third man, he is obliterated from the record. Possibly it could have been Ahithophel, who later rebelled against David, with Absalom. Or possibly Amasa, who also defected from David and became the general over Absalom's army.
- **In (1Ch 11:26-47) it lists the mighty men of David, including an extra sixteen.** They came along later. These mighty men are the ones that were with David, when David was fleeing from Saul. They belong to the first company of David. As time went on, there were other valiant men who did great exploits during the time of David's reign, and they were added to the list in Chronicles.

2Sa 23:25-34 *Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite, [26] Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikesh the Tekoite, [27] Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, [28] Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, [29] Heleb the son of Baanah (the Netophathite), Ittai the son of Ribai from Gibeath of the children of Benjamin, [30] Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai from the brooks of Gaash, [31] Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, [32] Eliahba the Shaalbonite (of the sons of Jashen), Jonathan, [33] Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, [34] Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,*

- **Eliam was the father of Bathsheba, with whom David had committed adultery.** From this verse, we realize that Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather, which helps us explain why Ahithophel was so bitter. He joined Absalom's rebellion, hating David so much because David had taken his granddaughter and had sex with her and gotten her pregnant and then killed her husband, Uriah.

2Sa 23:35 *Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, [36] Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, [37] Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite (armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah), [38] Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, [39] and Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.*

- **Uriah the Hittite is listed, Bathsheba's husband** who was put to death by David. His death was arranged and so the fact that he was among David's mighty men, probably his betrayal of Uriah makes it even harder to live with for the rest of his life.
- **I believe the Psalms that affect us most and we love the best** are the ones that David wrote in his brokenness after his sin. I believe the ones that communicate the greatest measure of God's grace are the ones that David wrote after his failure.
- **Thirty-seven in all, counting the three mighty men of the first class,** the three of the second, and the third class consisting of thirty men, whose names are as above, and Joab the general and head of them all.

David's Census

2Sa 24:1 *Again the anger of the LORD was aroused (reason not given) against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."*

- **(1Ch 21:1) Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.** So God opened the door, and allowed Satan to move in and tempt David. David was not up to the temptation. He succumbed to the temptation, and he ordered his generals to number the people.
- **(1Ch 27:23-24) But David did not take the number of those twenty years old and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel like the stars of the heavens. [24] Joab the son of Zeruiah began a census, but he did not finish, for wrath came upon Israel because of this census; nor was the number recorded in the account of the chronicles of King David.**
- **That is always a mistake to look to numbers or their military prowess for strength.** A nation's strength rests in the power of their God. Righteousness exalts a nation. Often times Israel was facing nations that were stronger, more numerable, more powerful. Yet, as they trusted and relied on God, He delivered them from the hands of their enemies. A nation's strength is in its devotion to God.

2Sa 24:2-3 *So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Now go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the*

number of the people. [3] ***And Joab said to the king, "Now may the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?"***

- Joab wisely asked David why do you want to do this? May God give you a hundred times more than you have, but why do you desire to do this? Why are you anxious to number the people?

2Sa 24:4-7 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel. [5] And they crossed over the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the town which is in the midst of the ravine of Gad, and toward Jazer. [6] Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon; [7] and they came to the stronghold of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites. Then they went out to South Judah as far as Beersheba.

- They made a circle of the whole country. They went across on the other side of Jordan, all the way around, from Dan down to Beersheba.

2Sa 24:8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

- **Nine months and twenty days.** That is about the length of man's pregnancy that it took to make the count. (***Jas 1:15***) ***Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.***

2Sa 24:9 Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

- (***1Ch 21:5***) ***Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men*** (evidently, **there were 300,000 conscripts included (not seasoned warriors) who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men (not including Benjamin) men who drew the sword.**

The Lord's Judgment of David's Sin

2Sa 24:10 And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

- ***O LORD in what I have done! I have sinned greatly!*** And then down at the bottom of the verse, ***I have done very foolishly*** (***2Sa 12:13***) ***So David said to Nathan*** (the Bathsheba incident), ***"I have sinned against the LORD."*** And Nathan said to David, ***"The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Here David says, I have sinned greatly! I have done very foolishly,*** the only occasion this term is used in the Bible!
- ***And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people.*** Not just foolishly, **very foolishly**. It says here at this point that David's heart condemned him. He had a heart towards God. But you know Satan did not leave him alone at this point in time. **The Bible says condemnation is from the devil!** Whenever you are down and out, he does not leave you alone.
- ***You know that the enemy is not leaving David alone at this point*** when he is struggling with this, he is heaping it on! David's is smiting him, that means there is a conviction. **The difference between conviction and condemnation is their origin.** The Bible tells us **condemnation is from the devil, conviction is from the Holy Spirit.** **They both feel lousy.**
- ***Here is how you tell the difference, and it is extremely important, particularly this evening if you are condemned,*** if you have been backslidden or you are a prodigal, trying to come back. Understand this. The enemy is going to be there to condemn you. The Holy Spirit is going to be there to convict you. Both of those feel bad!
- ***How do you tell the difference? This condemnation from the devil will drive you away from Jesus Christ,*** and conviction from the Holy Spirit will **drive you to Jesus Christ.** If your heart is smiting you, and it is causing you to get on your face more of the Lord and say, Oh, Lord, Forgive me, I messed up. That is good, that is good! That is the Holy Spirit.
- ***If that bad feeling is causing you to say, Why should I even try?*** Because I blow it over and over, and I am not stupid. I am saved. And when I sin, I sin against light. I should know better. I am going to throw in the towel. I am giving up. Life is not worth living! May be you are even thinking, suicide is

the answer! NO! NO! **That is the devil driving you away from the LORD!** Condemnation is from the devil!

- **Conviction is from the Holy Spirit!** It is good. Paul says in (*Eph 5:13*) *But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.* Tonight if you are aware of what needs a change in your life, if your heart is smiting you, if you know what you've done is wrong, and you know that God wants you to turn something around, know that could not happen unless God was shining the light of His word, the light of the Holy Spirit on that to convict you.
- **We do not have time to play around.** Look at the world we live in. You do not have time to sit around and mope for a year. Stop complaining. Jesus died on the cross for you, paying the total price! He paid it all. He said, It is finished. He did not say, You are finished. He said, It is finished, the price of redemption! *He who knew no sin became sin that you might become the very righteousness of God.* We pray if you are living in rebellion and open sin and you do not repent, we hope you do not sleep, because it is not time to play games, because you do not have to do that. You are doing that because you want to do that. You can turn around and turn to Him and cast yourself upon Him, and He will give you the strength. The gospel of Christ produces the power.
- **If you are struggling tonight and you are in sin, you turn to Jesus Christ with all your heart and He will heal you and He will put your feet back on the path.** The Bible teaches that none of us have excuses to be away from Him. We walk in too much light. We know of His love. We know what He has done on the cross for us. If we are doing those things, we are in willful sin! David's heart condemned him after he heard the number. He thought, what have I done? This is stupid! I did not need 1,300,000 to kill a giant. With God, I needed only one stone to sink into his forehead! *I have done very foolishly!*

2Sa 24:11-13 *Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, [12] "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you." [13] So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."*

- (*Deu 28:21,24,25*) *The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. [24] The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. [25a] "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies.*
- **David's confession and prayer, came before the prophet of God came to him,** and told him, "Look, God gives you three choices of punishment." Now, you have to realize that this is a part of the Old Testament. Jesus had not yet established that atonement, through His blood on the cross.
- **When we sin now, the punishment of our sin has already been meted out to Jesus Christ.** So God does not give you a choice of punishments. As a child of God, the Lord will chastise you, but the purpose of chastising, is to bring you to repentance. To bring you to the confession of your sins, and once sin is confessed, there is that forgiveness, which blots out, and then God does not require that punishment of you for your sins.
- **Our position is completely different from that of David, who lived prior to the blotting out,** through the blood of Jesus Christ. Thus, there was the penalty to be enacted against Israel. David, "You can have the seven years," or "three years of famine in the land." Or, you can have three months in which your enemies prevail against you in the field of battle. Or you can have three days of pestilence, with the hand of God stretched out against the nation." The prophet Gad said to him, "What shall I go tell the Person who sent me?"

2Sa 24:14 *And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."*

- **The hands of man can really rip you to pieces!** Man is unmerciful! They will destroy you. Better to fall into the hands of God! I know that God is merciful, let me fall into His hands!

2Sa 24:15 *So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time (of evening sacrifice, about nine hours?) From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men (unusually high for plagues, especially in a very short period of time) of the people died.*

- (*1Ch 21:14*) *So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.*

- **So there was a plague that struck Israel!** The time appointed, is thought to be three o'clock, in the afternoon. So in about nine hours, seventy thousands of these men that he had numbered for battle.

The **LORD** began to decimate his troops, wiping out about five percent of those he had just numbered!
2Sa 24:16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

- **(1Ch 21:1) Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.**
- **The LORD relented from the destruction.** God can relent in this context. If His people sin and rebel, He has to respond to them one way. If they turn from their sin, repent and turn back to Him, He then changes because He's unchanging and relates to them another way. From the earthly view, it looks like he changed, but it really is because He is unchanging! He can only relate relatively a certain way, particularly at this point under the law, to how his people responded. There was some change, and because He is unchanging, He changes! Now he demonstrates His mercy, that looked like a change from the earthly position. It says that He told the angel, **"It is enough; now restrain your hand."**
- **And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite** (Ornan, Chronicles account). Araunah is a Jebusite, not even an Israelite, who has become loyal to David. And his threshing floor is there, which we will find out is most interesting!

2Sa 24:17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

- **(1Ch 21:17) And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, O LORD my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."**
- **David here, felt a great responsibility for what was happening to the people,** This is what made David such a great king! He had the heart of a shepherd. He really had the people at heart. "God, I am the guilty one! I am the one that sinned! I am the one that has done so wickedly! These poor, little sheep, they have not done anything. **LORD!** Strike me! Strike my house, but oh, these sheep **LORD**, they are innocent." They were not, but in David's eyes, they were and he was pleading for the people. Again, acknowledging his sin, his wickedness. How beautiful David's heart is!
- **How sensitive am I to the fact that my sin does indeed affect others? Do I have a shepherd's heart at all like David's?**

David Builds an Altar

2Sa 24:18 And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

- **When David hears that, he knows if an altar is going up, blood is going to flow and God will be satisfied!** Remember, every worshiper in the Old Testament, and you need to apply it to yourself in Christ. When any worshiper came, the priest never examined the worshiper, he examined the lamb. It was a foregone conclusion that you were a sinner. You were not examined, you were there as a sinner with a lamb who was to be without spot or blemish.
- **It was the animal that was examined, and it was the animal that died in the sinner's place.** David understands that well. When he hears Gad say, God wants you to build an altar on the threshing floor of Aruna! How David must feel this excitement pulsing, particularly when there is a big angel with a sword standing around! What a remarkable, remarkable scene this is!

2Sa 24:19-20 So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. [20] Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground

- **(1Ch 21:20-21) Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat. [21] So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.**

- **Now Ornan was there threshing wheat and David came.** So Ornan and his kids are hiding. They looked up and saw the angel. Strange day for Ornan the Jebusite. When he saw David coming towards him, then Aruna went out from wherever he was hiding. He comes out in the open and *bowed himself before the king on his face to the ground.*

2Sa 24:21 Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

- **(1Ch 21:22)** Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."
- **Suddenly, Araunah looks down towards the city gates, and here comes the king,** and all of his mighty men, and he says, "Why are you coming to my place?" and David said, "I want to buy your threshing floor, that I can build an altar here unto the Lord, and offer a sacrifice."
- **Aruna, who had seen the angel with his four sons, hears that if David buys the threshing floor, the plague is going to be stayed!**

2Sa 24:22-23 Now Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood."

- **(1Ch 21:23c)** Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."
- Araunah said, "Hey, here is the oxen, here is the wood. You go ahead and take it, no charge."

2Sa 24:23 All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you."

- O king, Here, king, I will give you, O king, you know, take all this.

2Sa 24:24 Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor (goren) and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

- **(1Ch 21:24-25)** Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing." [25] So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold (about 400 oz) by weight for the place ("maqom" (maw-kome); Mount Moriah, the whole Temple Mount on which Solomon's temple stood!
- **How sensitive am I to never give anything to the LORD that costs me nothing? For example how casual are my prayers? Am I praying like I really mean it?**

2Sa 24:25 And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

- **(1Ch 21:26-28,30)** And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. [27] So the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath. [28] At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. [30] But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.
- **David bought this threshing floor, and it says that the fire of God, eternal fire, fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, and that the LORD was entreated, the plague was withdrawn!** David understood what had taken place, This may have been the high point of his life! I wonder what else he saw there on Mount Moriah, where Abraham had offered Isaac. I wonder if he saw His greater Son there on the cross. I wonder what he saw as the fire fell from heaven?
- **In God's sacrifice, He rained down His own fire upon His Son.** Propitiation was accomplished. God's wrath was satisfied on Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice. When He came out of those three hours of darkness, He said, **It is finished! Tetelestai! Paid in full!**
- **He got it all done. He said, It is finished. We are not.** God is working faithfully to conform us into the image of His Son. He is going to continue the good work He's begun in us, and what a job it is. But the issue of redemption and God's wrath being satisfied, is finished, if you have come to Him by faith.

- For any of you this evening that are wrestling with the condemnation of the devil! Look, if that rotten feeling is driving you away from the *LORD*, you refuse that! This is God's Word. It is all going to happen exactly the way God says it is going to happen. He says, If you come to Him in repentance and in faith, your sins are taken care of!
- **What a victorious position He has given you and me! In God's sacrifice of His Son, propitiation was accomplished! He was satisfied! "It is finished"! Do I understand the profoundness of that? Has the study of David helped us in better understanding His grace and His mercy? Understanding the cross - Gethsemane, Gabbatha (Joh 19:13) and Golgotha?**

SUMMARY

- Am I listening, am I sure what this old king David is saying? Our *LORD* has made an everlasting covenant with me! It is mine tonight! His Kingdom is coming! It is shining! It is clean! It is glistening, like a morning without clouds! Is that where my heart, mind and soul are? Or am I letting the enemy distract and deceive me with all the godlessness, busyness and hopelessness of this world? (2Sa 23:5)
- Noting the conviction of David that only the very best is to be given to the *LORD*, would I have drunk this water, that I so longed for, or would I have poured it out, all to Him? (2Sa 23:17)
- How sensitive am I to the fact that my sin does indeed affect others? Do I have a shepherd's heart at all like David's? (2Sa 24:17)
- How sensitive am I to never give anything to the *LORD* that costs me nothing? For example how casual are my prayers? Am I praying like I really mean it? (2Sa 24:24)

JOY TO THE WORLD – Isaac Watts (1719) – Handel (2:12/2:15)

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

*Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plains Repeat the sounding joy; Repeat the sounding joy; Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*

*He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His
righteousness And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And
wonders, wonders, of His love.*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature
sing!*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study *I Kings*, Chapter 1

Why Celebrate Christmas? Pastor Jack, CCCH is currently doing four Biblical messages of "Why celebrate Christmas." The first one was last Sunday – here is the link - <https://youtu.be/gS-W3PYO-cl>

The second one is this coming Wednesday evening; the third will be next Sunday and the fourth on Christmas Eve. You can hear them live – CCCH website is - <https://calvarycch.org/>