

2 SAMUEL 24 – DAVID’S CENSUS OF JUDAH & ISRAEL; GOD’S JUDGMENT ON DAVID’S SIN!

8/25/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

JESUS PAID IT ALL! – Elvina Hall; sung by Joslin Choral Society

I I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all.”

Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

2 Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone, Can change the leper’s spots And melt the heart of stone. (Refrain)

3 And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, “Jesus died my soul to save,” My lips shall still repeat. (Refrain), He washed it white as snow.

Chapter 24– David’s Sin of Census of Israel

What lay behind David’s desire for a national census? Probably it was pride: he had won a number of great victories (1 Chron. 18-20) and perhaps wanted to bask in the glory of success. There was certainly nothing wrong with a census, since the people had often been numbered during their national history; but we must keep in mind that a census that praised men would never glorify God. God gave David nearly ten months to change his mind and avoid discipline (2Sa_24:8). God even used the wise counsel of Joab to discourage him, but David would not listen. David’s sin was not a hasty thing; he carried it out with cool, calculated precision. He was rebelling against God! There is an interesting series of contrasts between this sin and his sin with Bathsheba: (1) this was a sin of the spirit (pride) while the other was a sin of the flesh; (2) here he acted with deliberate persistence, while his sin with Bathsheba came as the result of the sudden overwhelming desires of the flesh; (3) this sin involved the nation, and 70,000 people died; his other sin was a family matter, with 4 people dying. (4) Yet in both sins, God gave David time to repent, but he waited too long. Pride and rebellion against God’s Word are serious sins. Here in David’s life they produced greater sorrow and tragedy than did his adultery. We must beware of sins “of the flesh and of the spirit”

David's Census

2Sa 24:1 Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel (reason is not given), and He (possibly Satan- 1 Chron 21:1) moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

2Sa 24:2 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."

- David knew that God had made him and Israel great! But now David is viewing the success, his favor and victories on the size of Israel’s army. So, he is sinning in looking **to the arm of the flesh instead of the power of God!**

2Sa 24:3 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?"

2Sa 24:4 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.

- Both Joab and army captains, knew it was wrong to number the men in Israel, but David was determined!

2Sa 24:5 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.

2Sa 24:6 Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon;

2Sa 24:7 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.

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.

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.

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,

- David, taking responsibility, knew he had committed a great sin in looking to man for security instead of God!
- Often when Satan tempts us with wonderful sounding things, as soon as you do them, we have absolute misery!

I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

- David did the right thing! He confessed! The man after God’s heart was not sinless but had a heart sensitive to sin when it was committed. David now saw the pride and vainglory that prompted him to do such a foolish thing.

2Sa 24:11 Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,
2Sa 24:12 "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." ' ' "

- Here God will punish David for his sin, but we see His love by letting David choose the penalty.
- Now because Jesus has paid the price of atonement for us on the cross, we are not punished or condemned for our sin, but God will chasten us out of His grace, mercy and love.
- David says he would rather fall into the merciful hand of God than the unmerciful man!

2Sa 24:13 So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven (possibly three) 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."

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."

- David says he would rather fall into the merciful hand of God than the unmerciful man!

2Sa 24:15 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.

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.

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."

- Notice David's heart of a shepherd. He cares for his sheep, pleading for the people, acknowledging his sin!

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 (or Ornan) the Jebusite."

2Sa 24:19 So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

2Sa 24:20 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.

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."

2Sa 24:22 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.

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."

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 and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

- David is very honorable to God! He will not offer anything to the Lord that cost him nothing!

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.

- The location for the temple is hereby specified -- 1Ch 22:1 Then David said, "This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

SUMMARY:

- The sin of David's taking the census was the motive behind it, pride! – trusting in man and not God!
- Sin will always find you out! David's heart condemned him!
- God will punish David for his sin, but we see His love by letting David choose the penalty.
- Jesus has paid the price of atonement for us on the cross, we are not punished or condemned for our sin, but God will chasten us out of His grace, mercy and love.
- David confessed, repented, obeyed the Lord in purchasing the threshing floor, making sacrifices
- The Lord heeded David's prayers, the plague was withdrawn. The location of the temple established!

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com