

#13 - 8/26/2018 - Disciplined - 2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21

The consequences of sin should lead to repentance.

I. The LORD's anger burned against Israel again - 2 Samuel 24: ¹ *The LORD's anger burned against Israel again, and he stirred up David against them to say: "Go, count the people of Israel and Judah."* & **1 Chronicles 21:** ¹ *Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to count the people of Israel.*

The Lord was angry at Israel and He permitted Satan to incite David to conduct a census. There was nothing wrong with a census done as the Bible proscribed. ^A

[Exodus 30:13-14](#) says that every adult male in the nation was to pay half a shekel of silver into the sanctuary coffers, a significant expense for most of the people. [Exodus 30:12,16](#), said there would be a plague if the census money was not used to redeem the people.

The census was permitted but not commanded, and it was discouraged by the threat of a plague. A centralized, powerful state was never the biblical ideal ^B. But, David was the king and the people were organized by his administration. The census was probably to prepare for Solomon's reign, but no half-shekel tax was collected. Therefore, Israel had to be punished.

Solomon updated David's census information prior to organizing the nation into groups for forced labor or taxation and to set up twelve administrative districts. ^C These districts to some degree erased the old tribal boundaries. This was the very thing that Exodus 30 meant to discourage- the reduction of the significance of the tribes and the enhancement of a central administration. The tribes were an ancient part of Israel's identity, and Solomon's reorganization did much damage to it. The forced labor to which Israel was subjected in effect returned them to what they were in Egypt: slaves. This began with an improper census.

Notes: A- [Exodus 30:11-16](#); B- [1 Samuel 8:4-18](#); C- [2 Chronicles 2:17, 1 Kings 4:7-19](#);

II. David ordered Joab to conduct a census of the men in Israel - 2 Samuel 24: ² *So the king said to Joab, the commander of his army, "Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba and register the troops so I can know their number."*

³ *Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times more than they are—while my lord the king looks on! But why does my lord the king want to do this?"* **1 Chronicles 21:3** *Joab replied,... Why should he bring guilt on Israel?*

⁴ *Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab and the commanders of the army.*

⁸ *When they had gone through the whole land, they returned to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.* ⁹ *Joab gave the king the total of the registration of*

#13 - 8/26/2018 - Disciplined - 2 Samuel 20 & 1 Chronicles 21 - The consequences of sin should lead to repentance. 2
the troops. There were eight hundred thousand valiant armed men from Israel and five hundred thousand men from Judah. [1,300,000 - probably rounded numbers - without the Levites, the tribe of Benjamin and the women and children]

Joab knew that taking a census was a bad idea and could result in a plague if a half a shekel of silver tax to redeem the people was not collected. However, David prevailed and over nearly 10 months the census was taken. This was a time when **David did not seek the counsel of God**, but was tempted by Satan. He might have been thinking that when Solomon took over as king he would have a large geographic area to govern with 12 tribes and he wanted to set up an organization to prepare for the young king's reign.

This is the kind of temptation Disciples face today. As parents or grandparents we may attempt to shelter our young people from the reality of a hard life as adults fighting in a battle every day between the forces of good and evil. Instead we should prepare them to become independent adults prepared to live one day at a time depending on Jesus no matter what the circumstances are.

Despite David's planning ^A, this did not turn out to well for Solomon because he was drawn astray by David's sins and the false gods of his many wives. When Solomon died; the kingdom split into the 10 northern tribes-Israel and 2 southern tribes-Judah.
B

What kind of example are you providing for the future generations of your family?

Notes: A- David's planning for Solomon included developing a plan for the future temple, raising the money for construction, arranging for materials and workers. 1 Chronicles 22-29; B- Israel split up - 1 Kings 12 - 930BC, then Israel was destroyed by Assyria in 722BC - 2 Kings 17:6-41, Judah by Babylon 605-586BC - 2 Chronicles 36:5-21, Cyrus permits return 535BC - 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

III. Confession of David - 2 Samuel 24:10 *David's conscience troubled him after he had taken a census of the troops. He said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I've done. Now, LORD, because I've been very foolish, please take away your servant's guilt."*

The census took 9 months and 20 days and then some time to tabulate the result and it was not until receiving the results that David was convicted by the Holy Spirit ^A of his sin. Maybe he realized that they had not collected the required tax from each man of 1/2 shekel and that God had said that would result in a plague. ^B Or maybe he realized that Joab had been right about warning him not to take the census. ^C

Whatever the reason David confessed his sin and sought the Lord's forgiveness. When he confessed his sins of adultery and murder, David said, *"I have sinned";* but when he confessed his sin of the census, he said, *"I have sinned greatly"*.

Most of us would consider his sins relating to Bathsheba far worse than the sin of the census. David's sins with Bathsheba took the lives of four of David's sons [the baby,

Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah] plus the life of Uriah, Ahithophel, and the 20,000 troops in the battle to reclaim the throne. After the census, God sent a plague that took the lives of 70,000 people. This may be a confirmation that the sin was greater.

There are 2 lessons for us today; [1] be very careful to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the mind of Christ and others when making decisions, [2] and keep short accounts in self-examination for sin on a daily basis. David had at least ten months when he could have stopped the census but waited until it was complete.

Maintain a Biblical [decision making process](#) for your life and constantly [examine your life](#) for any sin that should be confessed.

Notes: A- 1 [Samuel 16:13](#); B- [Exodus 30:12](#); C- 1 [Chronicles 21:3](#); D- [2 Samuel 12:13](#); [24:10, 17](#); [Psalm 41:4, 51:4](#); 1 [Chronicles 21:8](#);

IV. Consequences of sin - 2 Samuel 24:11-15...¹¹ *When David got up in the morning, the word of the LORD had come to the prophet Gad, David's seer [Prophet]:*¹² *"Go and say to David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am offering you three choices. Choose one of them, and I will do it to you.'"*

God gave David the choice of how he would be punished: **three years** of famine, **three months** of military defeat, or **three days** of plague. ^A The punishments strike the nation at large, possibly because they had not paid the 1/2 shekel tax required during a census ^B or because *"The LORD's anger burned against Israel again,"* ^C

In verse 14, David gave the choice back to God: *"please, let us fall into the Lord's hands because His mercies are great, but don't let me fall into human hands".* His answer reflects faith in the promise that was given to Moses: *"The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin"*^D. The punishment was severe; seventy thousand men died.

In the census, the total number of men was one million three hundred thousand (v. 9), and of these seventy thousand died or over 5 percent of the men died in three days. This was a deadly plague. The plague extended from the north to the south of Israel, just as the census.

It may seem that the punishment was out of proportion to the sin of David and Israel. But one sin—one decision or action—can carry with it disastrous results? Can you think of examples of this in your life?

Notes: A- The 3 choices God gave David were similar to the "Curses for Disobedience" promised in Deuteronomy 28:15-61...¹⁵ *"But if you do not obey the LORD your God by carefully following all his commands and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overtake you: **Famine**--vv. [23-24,38-40](#), **Military defeat** vv. [25-26, 41-48](#), **Pestilence** vv. [21-22,27-28,35,60-61](#); B- [Exodus 30:12-15](#); C- [2 Samuel 24:1a](#); D- Exodus 34:6-7a;*

V. David's sincere remorse for his sin - 2 Samuel 24:16-17...¹⁶ *Then the angel extended his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, but the LORD relented concerning the destruction and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The **angel of the LORD** was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.*

¹⁷ *When David saw the angel striking the people, he said to the LORD, "Look, **I am the one who has sinned**; I am the one who has done wrong. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let your hand be against me and my father's family."*

As promised the plague started the next day at morning and continued for three days, with the judgment angel ending his work at Jerusalem, just as Joab and his men had done ^A. We know that 70,000 died, 5% of the men counted died in 3 days. David's heart was broken because of this judgment, and he pleaded with the Lord to punish him and his family instead. Why would God kill seventy thousand men and yet keep David alive? V.24:1 says that God was angry with Israel, so He was punishing the people for sin they had committed and David's punishment was the anguish over Israel.

David begged the Lord to let His hand be against him and his family and for mercy for "the sheep of His pasture" ^B. The elders of Israel were with David ^C and with him "fell on their faces" in humble remorse and worship. David's sin had precipitated the crisis, but the elders realized that the nation had sinned and deserved to receive God's discipline.

We can compare this judgment to the great 1918-19 flu epidemic which may have killed as much as 5% of the world's population. ^D The [1918 flu epidemic](#) hit the US army hard close to end of World War I because it spread fast among people in tight quarters like barracks and ships from the USA to Europe. My mother was 4 years old in 1918, caught the flu, and refused taking the medicine available. The doctors told her mother don't worry she is going to die with or without the medicine, but she survived! A plague that killed 5% of today's population would kill 365 million people.

David's willingness to offer up himself and his family may have been a part of stopping the plague. The sacrifice of Jesus made possible the forgiveness of sin and stopped the plague of eternity in hell for all who believe in Him.

Notes: A- 2 Samuel 24:8; B- Psalm 100:3d; C- 1 Chronicles 21:16d; D- Estimates of deaths from the 1918-19 flu epidemic are from [50-100 million](#). WW 1 military and civilian deaths are estimated at 21 million and certainly a high percentage of these deaths were caused by the flu.

VI. God in His Compassion stopped the Plague - 2 Samuel 24:18-25...¹⁸ *Gad came to David that day and said to him, "Go up and set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."*¹⁹ *David went up in obedience to Gad's command, just as the LORD had commanded.*²¹ *Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David replied, "To buy the threshing floor from you in order to build an altar to*

#13 - 8/26/2018 - Disciplined - 2 Samuel 20 & 1 Chronicles 21 - The consequences of sin should lead to repentance. 5
the LORD, so the plague on the people may be halted.”²⁵ He built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD was receptive to prayer for the land, and the plague on Israel ended.

The prophet Gad said, David was to build an altar on Omana's threshing floor and there offer sacrifices to the Lord, and the plague would cease. As king, David could have appropriated the property or even borrowed it, **but he insisted on purchasing it**. When the priest offered the sacrifices, God sent fire from heaven to consume them as a signal of His acceptance. ^A

The land that David purchased was the place where Abraham had put his son Isaac on the altar ^B and where Solomon would build the temple ^C. This area today is the subject of world wide debate while most of it is being controlled by Muslims.

God used David's two great sins for His glory! Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon and God chose him to succeed David on the throne. On the property David purchased and on which he erected an altar to stop the plague, Solomon built the temple and dedicated it to the glory of God. What God did for David is certainly not an excuse for sin ^D, for David paid dearly for committing those sins. However, knowing what God did for David encourages us to seek His presence and trust His grace when we have disobeyed Him. *“But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”^E*. What a merciful God we serve!

Are you willing to trust God's grace when you have disobeyed Him? What kind of sacrifices should we give to God in gratitude for what He did at the cross?
[See [Hebrews 13:15-17](#), [Romans 12:1](#)]

Notes: A- [1 Chronicles 21:26](#); B- [Genesis 22:1-19](#); C- [1 Chronicles 22:1, 2](#)
[Chronicles 3:1](#); D- [Romans 6:1-2](#); E- Romans 5:20b;

VII. Summary/application 2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21:1-28:

1. What kind of example are you providing for the future generations of your family?
2. Maintain a Biblical [decision making process](#) for your life and constantly [examine your life](#) for any sin that should be confessed.
3. It may seem that the punishment was out of proportion to the sin of David and Israel. But one sin· one decision or action· can carry with it disastrous results? Can you think of examples of this in your life?
4. David's willingness to offer up himself and his family may have been a part of stopping the plague. Thank God the sacrifice of Jesus made possible the forgiveness of sin and stopped the plague of eternity in hell for all who believe in Him.

5. Are you willing to trust God's grace when you have disobeyed Him and confess and repent? The other option is denial or apathy and judgment. [1 Corinthians 11:31-32]

6. What kind of sacrifices should we give to God in gratitude for what He did at the cross? [See [Hebrews 13:15-17](#), [Romans 12:1](#) see below]

7. Memory verses - Exodus 34:6-7a *“The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin”*

1 Corinthians 11:31-32... ³¹ *But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.* ³² *But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.*

1 Chronicles 21:24 *King David answered, “No, I insist on paying the full price, for I will not take for the LORD what belongs to you or offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”*

1 Peter 1:5 *you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*

Romans 12:1 *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

Hebrew 13:15-17... ¹⁵ *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.* ¹⁶ *And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* ¹⁷ *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

Verse by verse comparison of **2 Samuel 24** Christian Standard Bible (CSB) & **1 Chronicles 21** Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

David's Military Census

¹ *The LORD's anger burned against Israel again, and he stirred up David against them to say: "Go, count the people of Israel and Judah."* ¹ *Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to count the people of Israel.*

² *So the king said to Joab, the commander of his army, "Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba and register the troops so I can know their number."*

² *So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count Israel from Beer-sheba to Dan and bring a report to me so I can know their number."*

³ *Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times more than they are—while my lord the king looks on! But why does my lord the king want to do this?"* ³ *Joab replied, "May the LORD multiply the number of his people a*

hundred times over! My lord the king, aren't they all my lord's servants? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?

⁴Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army left the king's presence to register the troops of Israel. ⁴ Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab. So Joab left and traveled throughout Israel and then returned to Jerusalem.

⁵They crossed the Jordan and camped in Aroer, south of the town in the middle of the valley, and then proceeded toward Gad and Jazer. ⁶They went to Gilead and to the land of the Hittites and continued on to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon. ⁷They went to the fortress of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites. Afterward, they went to the Negev of Judah at Beer-sheba.

⁸When they had gone through the whole land, they returned to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. ⁹Joab gave the king the total of the registration of the troops. There were eight hundred thousand valiant armed men from Israel and five hundred thousand men from Judah. ⁵ Joab gave the total troop registration to David. In all Israel there were one million one hundred thousand armed men and in Judah itself four hundred seventy thousand armed men.

¹⁰David's conscience troubled him after he had taken a census of the troops. He said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I've done. Now, LORD, because I've been very foolish, please take away your servant's guilt." ⁸ David said to God, "I have sinned greatly because I have done this thing. Now, please take away your servant's guilt, for I've been very foolish."

David's Punishment

¹¹When David got up in the morning, the word of the LORD had come to the prophet Gad, David's seer: ⁹ Then the LORD instructed Gad, David's seer, ¹

²"Go and say to David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am offering you three choices. Choose one of them, and I will do it to you.'" ¹⁰ "Go and say to David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am offering you three choices. Choose one of them for yourself, and I will do it to you.'"

¹³So Gad went to David, told him the choices, and asked him, "Do you want three years of famine to come on your land, to flee from your foes three months while they pursue you, or to have a plague in your land three days? Now, consider carefully what answer I should take back to the one who sent me." ¹¹ So Gad went to David and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Take your choice: ¹² three years of famine, or three months of devastation by your foes with the sword of your enemy overtaking you, or three days of the sword of the LORD—a plague on the land, the angel of the LORD bringing

destruction to the whole territory of Israel.' Now decide what answer I should take back to the one who sent me."

¹⁴David answered Gad, "I have great anxiety. Please, let us fall into the LORD's hands because his mercies are great, but don't let me fall into human hands."¹³ David answered Gad, "I'm in anguish. Please, let me fall into the LORD's hands because his mercies are very great, but don't let me fall into human hands."

¹⁵So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the appointed time, and from Dan to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men died.¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand Israelite men died.

¹⁶Then the angel extended his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, but the LORD relented concerning the destruction and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.¹⁵ Then God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but when the angel was about to destroy the city, the LORD looked, relented concerning the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The angel of the LORD was then standing at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁷When David saw the angel striking the people, he said to the LORD, "Look, I am the one who has sinned; I am the one who has done wrong. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let your hand be against me and my father's family."¹⁶ When David looked up and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem, David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell facedown.¹⁷ David said to God, "Wasn't I the one who gave the order to count the people? I am the one who has sinned and acted very wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? LORD my God, please let your hand be against me and against my father's family, but don't let the plague be against your people."

David's Altar

¹⁸Gad came to David that day and said to him, "Go up and set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."¹⁸ So the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go and set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁹David went up in obedience to Gad's command, just as the LORD had commanded.¹⁹ David went up at Gad's command spoken in the name of the LORD.

²⁰Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants coming toward him, so he went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground.²⁰ Ornan was threshing wheat when he turned and saw the angel. His four sons, who were with him, hid.

²¹ David came to Ornan, and when Ornan looked and saw David, he left the threshing floor and bowed to David with his face to the ground.

²¹ Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David replied, "To buy the threshing floor from you in order to build an altar to the LORD, so the plague on the people may be halted." ²² Then David said to Ornan, "Give me this threshing-floor plot so that I may build an altar to the LORD on it. Give it to me for the full price, so the plague on the people may be stopped."

²² Araunah said to David, "My lord the king may take whatever he wants and offer it. Here are the oxen for a burnt offering and the threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood." ²³ Your Majesty, Araunah gives everything here to the king." Then he said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." ²³ Ornan said to David, "Take it! My lord the king may do whatever he wants. See, I give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering—I give it all."

²⁴ The king answered Araunah, "No, I insist on buying it from you for a price, for I will not offer to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for twenty ounces of silver. ²⁴ King David answered Ornan, "No, I insist on paying the full price, for I will not take for the LORD what belongs to you or offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing." ²⁵ So David gave Ornan fifteen pounds of gold for the plot.

²⁵ He built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD was receptive to prayer for the land, and the plague on Israel ended. ²⁶ He built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD, and he answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. ²⁷ Then the LORD spoke to the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.