**2 Samuel 24** (https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+24/)

Peter B. Luh, 7/22, 27, 28, 8/16, 22/2018

**David's Census**

24 Again

the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel,

and

he incited David against them,

saying,

“Go,

number Israel and Judah.”

2 So the king said to Joab, the commander of the army,

who was with him,

“Go through all the tribes of Israel,

from Dan to Beersheba,

and

number the people,

that I may know the number of the people.”

3 But

Joab said to the king,

“May the Lord your God add to the people a hundred times

as many as they are,

while the eyes of my lord the king still see it,

but

why does my lord the king delight in this thing?”

4 But

the king's word prevailed against Joab

and

the commanders of the army.

So Joab

and

the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king

to number the people of Israel.

5 They crossed the Jordan

and

began from Aroer,

and

from the city

that is in the middle of the valley,

toward Gad

and

on to Jazer.

6 Then they came to Gilead,

and

to Kadesh in the land of the Hittites;

and

they came to Dan,

and from Dan

they went around to Sidon,

7 and

came to the fortress of Tyre

and

to all the cities of the Hivites

and

Canaanites;

and

they went out to the Negeb of Judah at Beersheba.

8 So when they had gone through all the land,

they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

9 And

Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king:

in Israel

there were 800,000 valiant men

who drew the sword,

and

the men of Judah were 500,000.

**The Lord's Judgment of David's Sin**

10 But

David's heart struck him

after he had numbered the people.

And

David said to the Lord,

“I have sinned greatly

in what I have done.

But now, O Lord,

please take away the iniquity of your servant,

for I have done very foolishly.”

11 And when David arose in the morning,

the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad,

David's seer,

saying,

12 “Go

and

say to David,

‘Thus says the Lord,

Three things I offer you.

Choose one of them,

that I may do it to you.’”

13 So Gad came to David

and

told him,

and

said to him,

“Shall three years of famine come to you in your land?

Or

will you flee three months before your foes

while they pursue you?

Or

shall there be three days' pestilence in your land?

Now

consider,

and

decide

what answer I shall return to him

who sent me.”

14 Then David said to Gad,

“I am in great distress.

Let us fall into the hand of the Lord,

for his mercy is great;

but

let me not fall into the hand of man.”

15 So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time.

And

there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men.

16 And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem

to destroy it,

the Lord relented from the calamity

and

said to the angel

who was working destruction among the people,

“It is enough;

now stay your hand.”

And

the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 Then David spoke to the Lord

when he saw the angel

who was striking the people,

and

said,

“Behold,

I have sinned,

and

I have done wickedly.

But

these sheep, what have they done?

Please let your hand be against me

and

against my father's house.”

**David Builds an Altar**

18 And

Gad came that day to David

and

said to him,

“Go up,

raise an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”

19 So David went up at Gad's word,

as the Lord commanded.

20 And when Araunah looked down,

he saw the king

and

his servants coming on toward him.

And

Araunah went out

and

paid homage to the king with his face to the ground.

21 And

Araunah said,

“Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”

David said,

“To buy the threshing floor from you,

in order to build an altar to the Lord,

that the plague may be averted from the people.”

22 Then Araunah said to David,

“Let my lord the king take

and

offer up

what seems good to him.

Here are the oxen for the burnt offering

and

the threshing sledges

and

the yokes of the oxen for the wood.

23 All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.”

And

Araunah said to the king,

“May the Lord your God accept you.”

24 But

the king said to Araunah,

“No,

but

I will buy it from you for a price.

I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God

that cost me nothing.”

So David bought the threshing floor

and

the oxen

for fifty shekels of silver.

25 And

David built there an altar to the Lord

and

offered burnt offerings

and

peace offerings.

So the Lord responded to the plea

for the land,

and

the plague was averted

from Israel.