**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.