

- I) V1 INTRO: Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel and He moved David
 - a) Chapter 24 opens up with the writer pointing out that once again, God's anger is provoked
 - 1) In Ch 21, God had brought a drought and 3 years of famine because of Saul's sin
 - 2) HIS SIN: Saul had killed some Gibeonites, and God held him guilty for it
 - 3) NOW: For an unspecified reason, God's anger is once again kindled against Israel
- II) INTERESTINGLY: We read *He moved David* against them to say Go number Israel and Judah
 - a) When you compare this with 1 Chronicles 21:1 you get an interesting insight
 - 1) 1 Chron 21:1 Stan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel
- III) QUESTION: Is this a contradiction?
 - a) NO: What we have is God moving David to perform His will and Satan using it against him
 - 1) God was angered at Israel, and was going to judge the nation for an unspecified sin
 - 2) God moves David to take a census, but Satan uses this to move against Israel
- IV) V1 GOD INITIALLY COMMANDS DAVID: Go, number Israel and Judah
 - a) David is to take a census of the army to determine Israel's military strength
 - 1) McGee points out that this is an encouragement to David, revealing a great army of support
 - 2) Satan takes advantage of a weakness he has discovered in David
- V) KEY: There was pride and ambition in the heart of David that can be taken advantage of by Satan
 - a) Along the line, *as he was growing older*, David apparently began to trust in his military strength
 - 1) This can occur when a warrior grows older: power becomes too important
- VI) REMEMBER: David had recently been rescued by one of his mighty men
 - a) A giant had seen David grow tired in battle, and was going to kill him
 - 1) Abishai came to his aid and killed the Philistine, delivering David
 - 2) This would not have set well with him and may have stirred him to trust in his army
- VII) SADLY: It is possible for us to know *what to do*, but to simply fail *to do what we know!*
 - a) David had even written concerning trusting in God and not man
 - 1) Ps 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God
 - 2) Ps 44:6-8 I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me. But You have saved us from our enemies and have put to shame those who hated us. In God we boast all day long and praise Your name forever
 - 3) FACT: As long as we are on earth, we will be susceptible to self-deception
- VIII) KEY: Satan takes advantage of the inclination of David's heart, and he succumbs to the temptation
 - a) FACT: This would be something that God would deal with in David, and Satan knew this
 - 1) 2 Sa 22:28 You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down
- IX) V2-9 SO: The king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him Now go throughout
 - a) NOTICE: Joab, David's general and counselor does not understand the purpose of such a thing
 - 1) V3 HE ASKS: But why does my lord the king desire this thing?
 - 2) WHY: This is a good question, and should have caused David to pause before moving on
- I) V8-9 IT TOOK THEM: Nine months and twenty days to finish the task, from the entire country

- a) ULTIMATELY: Combining Israel and Judah there were 1.3 million potential fighting men
 - 1) COMPARISON: Today, Israel's population is just over 7 million, with 2.8 million fit for service
 - 2) In 2008 Israel had 187,000 active and 408,000 inactive military personnel

- II) V10 AND: *David's heart condemned him* after he had numbered the people So David said to the LORD
 - a) For almost ten months, David's conscience was asleep to this sin but now it awakens
 - 1) He now stands internally convicted, and sees the pride of his heart and confesses his sin to God
 - 2) Pr 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

- III) V11-13 NOW: When David arose in the morning the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad
 - a) This is mercy mixed with judgment, as God could have simply moved to judge
 - 1) Ps 89:14 Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

- IV) V13 THE CHOICES: Famine, enemies, or a plague
 - a) FACT: God gives David three options, and the burden of having to choose the punishment
 - 1) This would be an incredible burden for him to carry, being responsible for such judgment

- V) V14 AND: David said to Gad I am in great distress Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD
 - a) Though all three judgments would have had God as primary cause, David chose a 3 day plague
 - 1) In times of famine, the people would have gone to other countries for help seeking man's mercy
 - 2) In fleeing from enemies, it is obvious that the enemies could have been exceptionally cruel

- VI) FACT: Three days of plague, directly from the hand of God would be preferred: *God is merciful*
 - a) Lam 3:32 Though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.
 - b) Ps 51:8 Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

- VII) V15 SO: The LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time From Dan
 - a) Judgment begins immediately, and within a short time 70,000 have died

- VIII) V16-17 AND: When the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it the LORD relented
 - a) David sees the angel about to smite Jerusalem as the angel is by the threshing floor of Araunah
 - 1) Araunah is also known as Ornan, and he also sees the angel about to smite the city
 - 2) 1 Chron 21:20 Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons who were with him hid themselves

- IX) V17 THEN DAVID: Spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people and said
 - a) David truly repents, as he does not place any blame on anybody else but acknowledges it all
 - 1) Ps 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge

- X) OFTEN PEOPLE HAVE: A different concept of owning up to what they have done wrong
 - a) SMOKEY: Mistakes I know I've made a few but I'm only human *You've made mistakes too*
 - 1) That line doesn't work well with my wife!

- I) FACT: David's sin affected the entire nation and others were hurt by it
 - a) AGAIN: We do not live in a vacuum, our lives impact others

- 1) In the body of Christ, one person's sin can actually impact everybody else
 - 2) You can't party on Saturday, serve on Sunday and think that nobody is injured by it
- II) V18-21 AND: Gad came that day to David and said to him Go up, erect an altar to the LORD
- a) 1 Chron 21:18 makes it clear that this order came from the angel of the LORD
 - 1) David did not choose this place, but God directed him to purchase it
 - 2) By commanding David to build an altar, God was directing where the Temple would stand
- III) V22-23 NOW: Araunah said to David Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him
- a) Araunah simply wanted to show generosity to David and offers to give him
- IV) V24 THEN: The king said to Araunah No but I will surely buy it from you for a price nor will I offer
- a) Araunah wants to give David what he needs to make an offering, but David refuses
 - 1) HE SAYS: Nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing
 - 2) David refused to receive this as a gift but paid full price for it (1 Chron 21:24)
- V) DAVID'S FAITH: Is revealed by his unwillingness to give to the Lord something that did not have value
- a) Though David was paying Araunah, the price was actually part of the offering to God
 - 1) Had David accepted Araunah's offer, it would have been Araunah's offering and not his
- VI) IN HIS ACTION DAVID REVEALS: *Sacrifice* is an essential part of *love for* and *service to God*
- a) Many seem to desire to serve the Lord with the littlest cost to them
 - 1) It is said, "He who has a faith that costs nothing has a faith that is worth nothing"
 - 2) BARNA: In a recent poll pointed out that 9% of evangelical believers are givers
 - 3) This means that believers are more generous to waitresses than they are to God
- VII) IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: We do not give to God *when we can afford it* but as an act of worship
- a) We see this in the story of the Widow and her gift of two mites (Mk 12:41-44)
 - 1) Jesus, using her as an example said that others gave out of abundance, but she out of her poverty
- VIII) FACT: In the time of Paul, the Jewish Christians were going through financial hardship
- a) Upon becoming Christians, many Jews were disinherited by their families and became poor
 - 1) Paul was concerned about them, and encouraged financial aid to be sent to them
- IX) HIS CONCERN WAS DEEP: So he wrote a letter to the church in Corinth to encourage them to help
- a) Churches in Thessalonica, Berea, and Philippi were helping, and Paul encouraged them to help also
 - 1) Those churches were undergoing hardship, but they made sacrificial attempts to care for them
 - 2) 2 Co 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great *trial of affliction* the abundance of their joy and their *deep poverty* abounded in the riches of their *liberality*. For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were freely willing*, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive *the gift* and the *fellowship of the ministering* to the saints. And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God
- I) GIVING: First to the Lord, and then they trusted that Paul would dispose of their gifts honorably
- a) FACT: We have an entire system of security here: nobody is left alone with the financial gifts
 - 1) We voluntarily have yearly audits, every cent is accounted for, and no cash or check is unnoticed

- 2) I receive weekly updates on offerings, make decisions on most expenditure, as well as requests
- II) I DO NOT KNOW: Who gives here, as I do not look at tithe or giving records
 - a) But I do know how the money is spent and keep a close watch over it
- III) FINALLY: One thing that David teaches us
 - a) Giving is sacrificial, and we should never offer God something that really has no value
 - 1) Some can give great amounts with little personal impact; others give small sums with great impact
 - 2) This is why giving is proportional
 - 3) 2 Co 9:7 *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- IV) DAVID: Was a cheerful giver, and because he had been forgiven much, he loved much
 - a) As a grateful man, he offered up a sincere sacrifice, God received it and heeded his prayers
 - 1) Believers give because we are grateful also, in that God gave the greatest gift: His Son
 - 2) 2 Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift
- V) V25 RESULT: The plague was withdrawn from Israel
 - a) I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER: What would happen to our nation if all believers gave to the Lord
 - 1) This land has a moral plague: if we began investing in reaching the lost, the world might change