

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 24

2 SAMUEL 24:1-2 - DAVID ORDERS A NATIONAL CENSUS

V. 1 - "AGAIN THE ANGER OF THE LORD BURNED AGAINST ISRAEL AND IT INCITED DAVID...."

(IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE "AGAIN" REFERS TO THE TIME RECORDED IN 2 SAMUEL 21:1-14)

THIS IS AN ODD INSTANCE. READING 2 SAM 24 ALONE CAN LEAD TO SOME CONFUSION IF NOT PAIRED WITH THE CORRESPONDING RECORD IN 1 CHRONICLES 21.

1 CHRONICLES 21:1-2 - THEN SATAN STOOD UP AGAINST ISRAEL AND MOVED DAVID TO NUMBER ISRAEL. 2 SO DAVID SAID TO JOAB AND TO THE PRINCES OF THE PEOPLE, "GO, NUMBER ISRAEL FROM BEERSHEBA EVEN TO DAN, AND BRING ME WORD THAT I MAY KNOW THEIR NUMBER."

"IN 2 SAM. 24:1, IT IS GOD HIMSELF WHO IN ANGER INCITES DAVID AGAINST ISRAEL, LEADING TO THE CENSUS. STILL, THE CHRONICLER WANTED HIS READERS TO THINK OF SATAN'S MALICE AS GOD'S MEANS OF CARRYING OUT HIS WILL. NEVERTHELESS, DAVID HIMSELF SINNED IN GIVING IN TO SATAN'S ENTICEMENT AND ORDERING THE CENSUS. THIS CENSUS WAS SINFUL PROBABLY BECAUSE IT AROSE FROM DAVID'S PRESUMPTUOUS MILITARY AMBITIONS AND PRIDE, RATHER THAN FROM YAHWEH'S EXPRESS COMMAND." (ESV STUDY BIBLE NOTE ON 1 CHRON 21:1)

"THE VERSION OF THE INCIDENT IN THE BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL GIVES AN UNDERLYING THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE, WHILE THE CHRONICLER SIMPLY DESCRIBES WHAT HAPPENED FROM A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE." (NET BIBLE NOTE 1 CHRON. 21:1)

"IN ADDITION, DAVID NEGLECTED TO LEVY THE POLL TAX FOR A CENSUS REQUIRED BY EX. 30:12, AN ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE THAT COULD BRING PLAGUE ON THE PEOPLE." (ESV STUDY BIBLE NOTE ON 1 CHRONICLES 21:1)

EXODUS 30:12 (NET) - "WHEN YOU TAKE A CENSUS OF THE ISRAELITES ACCORDING TO THEIR NUMBER, THEN EACH MAN IS TO PAY A RANSOM FOR HIS LIFE TO THE LORD WHEN YOU NUMBER THEM, SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO PLAGUE AMONG THEM WHEN YOU NUMBER THEM."

2 SAMUEL 24:3-9 - JOAB NUMBERS THE NATION

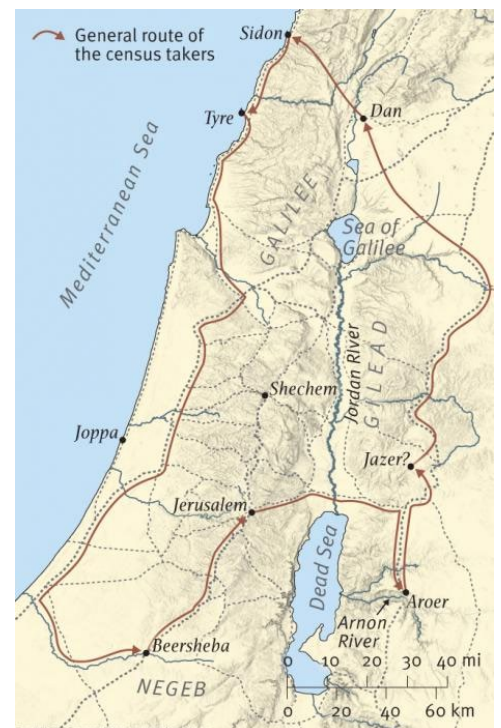
CENSUS TOTALS - ISRAEL - 800,000 VALIANT MEN, JUDAH - 500,000 MEN

V. 9 - NOTICE THAT THE NUMBERING IS GIVEN ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO WERE MILITARY READY CITIZENS. THIS GIVES US SOME INSIGHT INTO THE POSSIBLE MOTIVATION FOR DAVID'S CENSUS. IF HE WAS TRYING TO ASSESS HIS MILITARY CAPABILITIES, IS IT POSSIBLE HE WAS LACKING IN HIS TRUST OF THE LORD TO FIGHT ISRAEL'S BATTLES?

2 SAMUEL 24:10-14 - CONSEQUENCES FOR DAVID'S CENSUS SIN

GOD OFFERS DAVID THREE CHOICES OF CONSEQUENCES TO THE SIN (V. 13)

- 1 - 7 YEARS OF FAMINE
- 2 - 3 MONTHS OF FLEEING FROM ENEMIES
- 3 - 3 DAYS OF PESTILENCE (DAVID'S CHOICE)



THIS IS ANOTHER GOOD WINDOW INTO THE HEART OF DAVID. WHEN CONVICTED OF HIS SIN, HE RESPONDS HUMBLY AND ACCEPTS BOTH RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSEQUENCE FOR HIS ACTIONS. HE DOES NOT DEFLECT, MAKE EXCUSES OR HIDE.

V. 10 - "I HAVE SINNED GREATLY." "I HAVE ACTED FOOLISHLY." (← DO YOU EVER SAY THOSE THINGS?)

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW ALL OF THE INS AND OUTS OF THIS EVENT. WHY WOULD GOD DO THIS? WHY WOULD THE LORD ALLOW THIS (IF IT WAS SATAN'S DOING)? WHY WAS WHAT DAVID DO SIN? WAS IT HIS PRIDE? WAS HE DISOBEYING SOMEHOW? WAS IT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T PAY THE CENSUS TAX FROM EXODUS 30? WE DON'T HAVE ALL OF THE ANSWERS, BUT WE DO KNOW CLEARLY THAT WHAT HE DID WAS WRONG, THAT THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES AND IN THE END, WE WILL SEE HOW GOD USES THIS MOMENT TO ACTUALLY FURTHER HIS PURPOSES ON THE EARTH.

2 SAMUEL 24:15-17 - THE PESTILENCE

V. 15 - 70,000 MEN DIED THROUGHOUT ALL OF ISRAEL.

V. 16 - AN ANGEL OF THE LORD IS INFLECTING THE LAND WITH THIS PLAGUE. WHEN THE LORD COMMANDS THE ANGEL TO STOP, THE ANGEL COMES TO SIT ON A MOUNTAIN/HILL OVERLOOKING DAVID'S CITY IN JERUSALEM.

2 SAMUEL 24:18-23 - DAVID WANTS TO OFFER A SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING

ARAUNAH IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS "ORNAN" (SEE 1 CHRONICLES 21:18-30, 2 CHRON 3:1). A "THRESHING FLOOR" IS WHERE A FARMER WOULD SEPARATE THE USABLE AND UNUSABLE PARTS OF WHEAT OR OTHER GRAINS. ARAUNAH OFFERS TO GIVE THE THRESHING FLOOR TO DAVID FOR FREE AS WELL AS OXEN TO SACRIFICE AND WOOD TO BUILD THE ALTAR (V. 22).

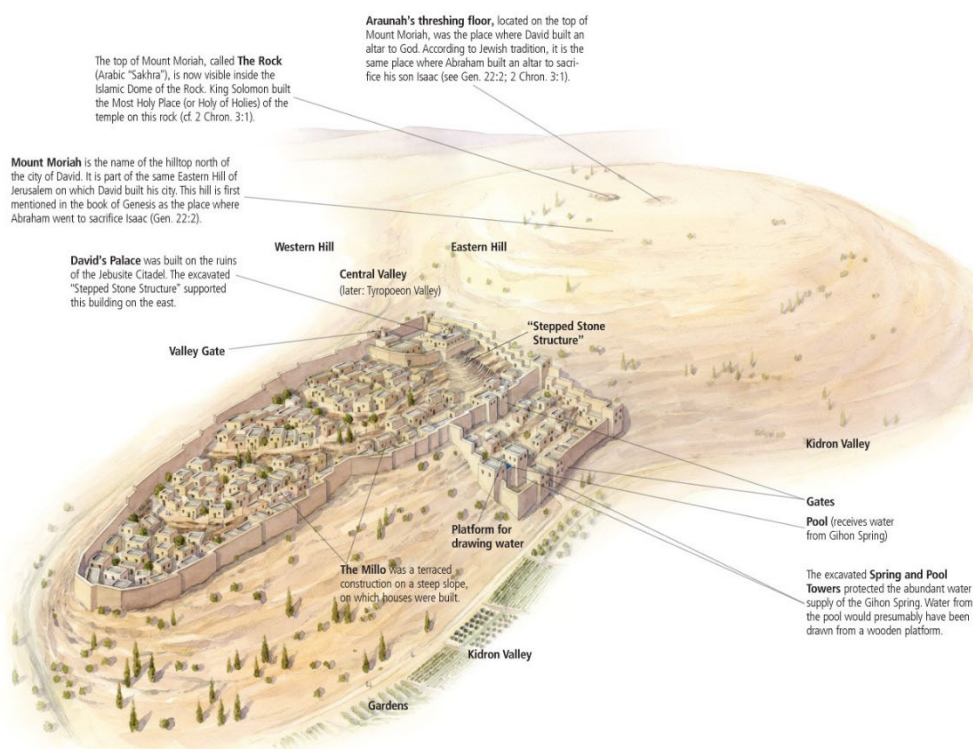
DAVID IS SET ON MAKING THIS SACRIFICE IN THIS PLACE. IT MAY BE THAT THIS SACRIFICE IS NEEDED TO PUT AN END TO THE PLAGUE. NOTICE THE ANGEL HOLDING POSITION AT THIS SITE AND THAT GOD, THROUGH GAD COMMANDS THIS ALTAR AND SACRIFICE (V. 18-19).

2 SAMUEL 24:24-25 - SACRIFICE COSTS SOMETHING

V. 24 - DAVID RECOGNIZES THAT FOR SOMETHING TO BE A SACRIFICE, IT MUST COST YOU SOMETHING. WHAT A TREMENDOUS PRINCIPLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD TO EMBRACE.

SACRIFICE: - : THE ACT OF GIVING UP SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT TO KEEP ESPECIALLY IN ORDER TO GET OR DO SOMETHING ELSE OR TO HELP SOMEONE (MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY, VIA M-W.COM).

THIS WILL BE THE LOCATION UPON WHICH THE TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT. WHAT WE SEE FROM THIS IS THAT THE LORD IS A GOD OF REDEMPTION. HE TAKES BROKEN THINGS AND MAKES THEM WHOLE. HE TAKES WEAKNESS AND BRINGS STRENGTH. HE TURNS TRIAL AND SUFFERING INTO VICTORY. HE WILL TAKE THE



LOCATION WHERE DAVID WILL OFFER A SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING BECAUSE THE LORD HELD BACK HIS JUDGMENT AND USE IT AS THE HOLY PLACE WHERE HIS PRESENCE WILL DWELL.

2 CHRONICLES 3:1 (NIV) - THEN SOLOMON BEGAN TO BUILD THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD IN JERUSALEM ON MOUNT MORIAH, WHERE THE LORD HAD APPEARED TO HIS FATHER DAVID. IT WAS ON THE THRESHING FLOOR OF ARAUNAH THE JEBUSITE, THE PLACE PROVIDED BY DAVID.

GENESIS 22:1-2 - NOW IT CAME ABOUT AFTER THESE THINGS, THAT GOD TESTED ABRAHAM, AND SAID TO HIM, "ABRAHAM!" AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM." 2 HE SAID, "TAKE NOW YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, WHOM YOU LOVE, ISAAC, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH, AND OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT OFFERING ON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF WHICH I WILL TELL YOU."

WITH THIS SACRED LOCATION THE TOPIC OF THE CLOSING WORDS OF 2 SAMUEL, IT IS HARD TO NOT THINK OF THE ATONING SACRIFICE OF "JESUS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF DAVID, THE SON OF ABRAHAM" (MATTHEW 1:1)

AS WE CLOSE THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL WE HAVE COME QUITE A LONG WAY. WE OPEN THE BOOK WITH SAMUEL HIMSELF ONLY A PRAYER IN THE HEART OF HIS MOTHER HANNAH. WE WELCOME HIS BIRTH AND SERVICE AS PRIEST, JUDGE AND PROPHET. WE ARE HOPEFUL AT THE ARRIVAL OF KING SAUL ONLY TO BE QUICKLY DISAPPOINTED AT HIS DOWNFALL AND DISFUNCTION. AS SAUL'S FLAME BEGINS TO FLICKER OUT, THE LIGHT OF DAVID BEGINS TO SHINE.

WE MEET DAVID AS HE IS CALLED IN FROM JESSE'S SHEEP FIELDS TO MEET SAMUEL WITH A HORN OF OIL APPOINTED FOR HIS HEAD AND AGAIN ON THE BATTLEFIELD AS ONE OF HIS 5 STONES FEARLESSLY FLIES TOWARDS GOLIATH'S HEAD. SOON DAVID WILL BE EVERYONE'S CHOICE FOR KING, INCLUDING JONATHAN. BUT HIS ASCENT TO THE THRONE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AS HE INSTEAD HAS TO DESCEND AWAY FROM DERANGED SAUL.

HIS YEARS ON THE RUN WILL BE MARKED BY GREAT EXPLOITS, STRANGE ALLIANCES, A GROWING FAMILY AND A GROWING GROUP OF MEN LOYAL TO THE ANOINTED ONE IN WAITING. FINALLY AND TRAGICALLY SAUL DIES AND DAVID IS ABLE TO RETURN TO ISRAEL AND BEGIN A NEW ERA FOR THE PEOPLE OF ABRAHAM. HE IS WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE AS KING. HE CAPTURES JERUSALEM TO BE HIS CAPITAL AND BRINGS THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, THE SYMBOLIC PRESENCE OF GOD BACK FROM ITS OWN EXILE. AND SO THE TIME OF ZION BEGINS.

BUT DAVID, A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART IS NOT IMMUNE FROM THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN. HE FALLS FROM HIS STAND WITH THE LORD AS HE FALLS FOR BATHSHEBA AND ENTANGLES HIMSELF IN LIES AND EVILS WHICH LEAD TO THE FALL OF UURIAH. WHEN CONFRONTED, DAVID IS BROKEN AND CONTRITE. HE FINDS FORGIVENESS BUT ALSO WILL FIND THAT HIS LIFE AND FAMILY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME. THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF HIS INDISCRETIONS WILL TURN INTO CRASHING WAVES OF TROUBLE. HIS CHILDREN FIGHT AND KILL EACH OTHER. ABSALOM STEALS THE HEARTS OF THE ISRAEL AND THE THRONE OF DAVID. HIS GENERALS ARE UNRELIABLE AND HIS PEOPLE ARE FICKLE IN THEIR DEVOTION TO DAVID.

AND YET, THROUGH EVERY SEASON OF DAVID'S SOUL, WE HAVE GLIMPSES INTO HIS HEART AND MIND THROUGH THE UPLIFTING, GUT WRENCHING AND PROFOUND PSALMS OF THE SHEPHERD KING. HE QUESTIONS AND WONDERS. HE PLEAS AND CRIES. HE SINGS AND SHOUTS. AND ALL THE WHILE, THERE IS NEVER AN INDICATION THAT DAVID EVER DOUBTS THAT THE LORD IS HIS GOD OR THAT THE LORD WILL BE FAITHFUL TO HIS WORDS AND WAYS.

PSALM 23:1-6 - A PSALM OF DAVID. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT. 2 HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES; HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS. 3 HE RESTORES MY SOUL; HE GUIDES ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE. 4 EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME; YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME. 5 YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES; YOU HAVE ANOINTED MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP OVERFLOWS. 6 SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVINGKINDNESS WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.

AND SO DAVID'S STORY COMES TO A CLOSE FOR THIS AGE. HE PREPARES THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE TEMPLE AND PREPARES TO HAND OVER THE REIGNS TO GOD'S KINGDOM TO SOLOMON, THE SON OF BATHSHEBA. AND MORE SURE THAN THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW TEMPLE ARE THE ETERNAL WORDS OF GOD TO DAVID - THAT HIS SON, HIS DESCENDANT WILL BE THE TRUE AND ETERNAL KING WHO WILL RULE FOREVER.