

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

David's Last Great Sin

- God's anger burned against Israel leading to David taking a census [2 Sam 24:1].
 - What caused God's anger is not mentioned, but Israel was falling short of God's holy standards.
 - God can bring judgment on a nation through bad decisions of a good ruler [2 Kgs 18:1-6; 20:12-15].
 - God, in His permissive will, allowed Satan to influence David in his bad choice [1 Chr 21:1].
- David insisted a census be taken so he could evaluate Israel's military might [2 Sam 24:2-9].
 - Joab knew this was a bad idea [v. 3; 1 Chr 21:6].
 - There were times when a census was appropriate [Ex 30:12; Num 1:2-3; 4:2, 22; 26:2-4a; 31:48-49].
 - This was not one of those times [1 Chr 21:7].
 - This process was quite involved, taking over nine months to complete [v. 8].
 - The numbers in 1 Chr 21:5 are 1,100,000 and 470,000 instead of 800,000 and 500,000.
 - The 1,100,000 number likely includes the standing army (12 x 24,000 = 288,000, 1 Chr 27:1-15).
 - The 470,000 number likely does not include David's 30,000 chosen men [2 Sam 6:1].
- As soon as he received the census report, David knew he had sinned [2 Sam 24:10].
 - Notice how David confessed his sin immediately.
 - Notice also that David did not go and offer a sin offering to the Lord [Lev 5:5-6] as this would only be required for tabernacle worship.
 - Once confessed, David's sin was forgiven, but there would be consequences.
- David was informed by Gad that he would choose the consequences [2 Sam 24:11-14].
 - The choices were...
 - ✦ Three years of famine [see 1 Chr 21:12].
 - ✦ Three months of enemy pursuit.
 - ✦ Three days of pestilence.
 - David threw himself upon the mercies of God rather than fall into the hand of man [v. 14].
- The Lord brought pestilence upon the people of Israel [2 Sam 24:15-17].
 - The plague quickly killed 70,000 people [v. 15].
 - The Lord intervened so that more lives would not be lost [v. 16].
 - David cried out to the Lord to have mercy on the people of Israel since he was the one who had done wrong [v. 17].

- Gad told David to build an altar where the Lord had shown mercy [2 Sam 24:18-25].
 - The site was a threshing floor was owned by Araunah, so David offered to buy it [vv. 18-21].
 - Araunah offered the threshing floor, wood, animals, etc. to David free of charge so he could make the offering to the Lord [vv. 22-23].
 - David insisted on paying Araunah [v. 24a].
 - He paid 50 shekels for the wood and oxen [v. 24b] and 600 shekels for the site [1 Chr 21:25].
 - David then built the altar and made the appropriate offerings to the Lord [v. 25a].
 - The Lord responded to the prayers being offered up for the land and had mercy on Israel [v. 25b].