

## **27 – THE MIGHTY MEN & DAVID’S CENSUS (2 SAMUEL 23:1-24:25; 1 CHRONICLES 21:1-30)**

### I. The Last Words of David (2 Samuel 23:1-7)

- The writer includes a poem that is entitled the last words of David.
- David starts his poem by identifying himself as the son of Jesse, anointed and the sweet psalmist.
- David states that the Lord spoke to him and through him.
- David explains that the fear of God is required in order for one to rule over men.
- David then focuses on the everlasting covenant that God had made with him.
- David also contrasts that evil men will be cast aside and burned.

### II. David’s Mighty Men (2 Samuel 23:8-39)

- The writer’s list of David’s mighty men is similar to the Chronicler’s list in 1 Chronicles 11.
- The writer’s list differs in that he does not include names beyond the 37 who are listed here.

### III. David’s Census (2 Samuel 24:1-25; 1 Chronicles 21:1-30)

#### A. The Lord’s Anger (2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1)

- There appears to be a conflict between the accounts of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles.
- The writer tells the reader that the Lord’s anger was aroused against Israel.
- The Lord then moved David’s heart to take a census of Israel and Judah.
- The Chronicler states that Satan stood against Israel and moved David’s heart.
- It should be seen not as a conflict but rather an issue of perspective.
- From 2 Samuel’s perspective, the writer tells the reader that the Lord is angry.
- The Lord’s anger with Israel always brings judgment in some form.
- From the Chronicler’s perspective, Satan is moving against Israel.
- In considering both, we can see that Satan is instrument of bringing judgment.

#### B. David’s Command (2 Samuel 24:2-4, 1 Chronicles 21:2-4)

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- David gave the command to go throughout Israel to count all the people.
- The purpose of the census was for David's personal knowledge.
- Joab questioned why David would suggest such a thing,
- However, David's word prevailed over Joab and the commanders of Israel.

## C. The Census (2 Samuel 24:5-9; 1 Chronicles 21:5-6)

- The census took nine months and twenty days, after which Joab reported the number.
- Joab reported that there were 800,000 men in Israel and 500,000 in Judah.
- The Chronicler notes that Joab did not count Levi and Benjamin in the census.
- This was due to the fact that Joab found the census to be an abomination.

## D. David's Confession (2 Samuel 24:10; 1 Chronicles 21:7-8)

- David's heart condemned him concerning the numbering of the people.
- He confessed to the Lord that he had sinned and asked for the iniquity to be taken away.
- David acknowledged that what he had done was foolishness on his part.

## E. The Choice (2 Samuel 24:11-14; 1 Chronicles 21:9-13)

- The Lord sent the prophet Gad to David with a choice of punishment.
- David was to choose from among three punishments for his sins.
- First, there would be a seven-year famine in the land.
- Second, he would be on the run from his enemies for three months.
- Finally, there would be a plague in the land for three days.
- David stated that he would rather fall into the hand of the Lord, rather than men.
- David explained his choice because the Lord's mercies are great.

## F. The Plague (2 Samuel 24:15-17; 1 Chronicles 21:14-17)

- The Lord sent a plague for the appointed time that killed 70,000 men throughout Israel.
- As the angel stretched his hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented.

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- The angel's hand was restrained, the Angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Ornan.
- When David saw the angel, he confessed that he had sinned and not the people.
- He asked the punishment be against him and his father's house.

### G. Sacrifice for Sin (2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Chronicles 21:18-27)

- Gad came to David and told him to erect an altar to the Lord in the threshing floor.
- After David explained that he wanted to build an altar, Ornan offered his threshing floor.
- David refused and offered to buy it, since he would not sacrifice that which cost him nothing.
- David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for 50 pieces of silver.
- After making the sacrifices, the Lord heeded the prayers and the plague was withdrawn.

### H. David's Place of Worship (1 Chronicles 21:28-30)

- When David saw that the Lord answered at the threshing floor, he sacrificed there.
- At that time, the Tabernacle and the Altar of Burnt Offering were at Gibeon.
- David would not go there to inquire of the Lord, because he feared the Angel of the Lord.