

## Week 34

2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21; 1 Kings 1; 1 Chronicles 28; 1 Chronicles 29:1-30

**Key Verse: Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. 1 Chronicles 29:12**

2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21, demonstrates how God looks on pride in His servants and shows the humility He requires. These chapters, when compared may raise some questions, but we as followers of God's Word must approach these questions with faith that God's word is always true and that any discrepancy is with our understanding and not with the scripture. Questions like these make us look at God's Word a little closer which can be a special blessing from God.

As you look at this portion of scripture keep in mind that God does not tempt anyone. James 1:13-14 says: When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. We also see in Job 1:10-12 that God will allow our protective hedge to be lowered.

The first thing we should glean from this episode is that it was Satan who provoked David to number Israel. In other words, numbering Israel's army was done because the adversary Satan was tempting David. That is a very important thing to remember because it explains a lot. The second thing to consider is David's reason for doing this was, "that he may know it." In other words, his own delight or pleasure was what induced him to do this. These are the keys to understanding this sin. God allowed David to be tempted by Satan because Israel had taken their eyes off God as their ruler, fortress and provider. We read in previous chapters how they had begun looking to themselves for strength. Even as they had pressed Samuel for a king that would be just like the nations that were around them, they weren't satisfied. This illustrated that they had forsaken trust in the Lord and forgotten that He alone was their sword and bulwark. And David too momentarily took his eyes off the Lord and looked toward Israel's own ability to provide a host as their strength. By God declaring that Satan provoked this census, we know that David's purpose for numbering the men of war was that he might delight or glory in Israel's own might or resources. This sin was not David's alone, because God Himself informs us that He allowed this numbering because of Israel's sins. It was God who had removed His normal restraint of sin from David, and it was because of the judgment He would remove His restraint upon Israel for their continuing sins of pride and vanity.

### **Day 1 - 2 Samuel 24: 1-17 and 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 David numbered the Fighting Men**

1. Who did David send to count the fighting men and what was his response to David? (2 Samuel 24:3; 1 Chronicles 21:1-3)

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2. How many men did Joab include in his report and who did he not include? Why? Who considered this a sinful act and what was the response? (1 Chronicles 21:4-6)

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3. When David realized what he had done what was his response?

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4. The Lord heard David and sent Gad with a message for David. What was the message? Name the options. (2 Samuel 24:11-13; 1 Chronicles 2:9-11)

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5. What was David's response to Gad's message? What was God's judgment? What was David's response to the judgment?

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**Prayer Focus: When are you tempted to lean upon your superior assets, rather than in weakness depend on God? Go to the Lord and lay your life at His feet.**

**Day 2 - 2 Samuel 24: 18-25; 1 Chronicles 21: 18-27 and 1 Chronicles 22:1 Mercy Extended**

6. God heard the plea of David on behalf of the people. What did the angel of the Lord order Gad to tell David?

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7. What did Araunah see while threshing wheat? How did Araunah respond to David?

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8. Give a summation of David and Araunah's conversation. (1 Chronicles 21:20-25)

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After David made Jerusalem his capital, he bought the upper part of the hill above the northern boundary of the city from its owner Araunah, the Jebusite. The purchase is recorded in the Bible in two places (2 Samuel 24:24 and 1 Chronicles 21:25).

This hill is Mount Moriah and what it may lack in physical size, it more than compensates in spiritual greatness.

From the earliest period of Jewish history, the Patriarchs of the Jewish people recognized the tremendous spiritual presence of God on Mount Moriah. This is where Abraham, sensing God's presence, went up to offer Isaac as a sacrifice and later remarked as the Bible records:

*"The Lord will see," as it is said to this day, "On the Lord's mountain, He will be seen." (Genesis 22:14)*

This is where Jacob dreamt of a ladder going to heaven, and said:

*"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28:17)*

No wonder this is a spot that every major conqueror in all of human history has wanted to own. (Jerusalem has been conquered or destroyed 36 times in 3,000 years.)

Today on this spot stands an Islamic structure known as the Dome of the Rock. Under this golden dome is an exposed piece of the bedrock of Mount Moriah-metaphysically known as the *shatiya*, literally, "drinking stone."

9. David then built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings and call upon the Lord. How did the Lord respond to David? (2 Samuel 21:27-28)

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10. What did David declare that day on Mount Moriah?

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**Day 3 - 1 Kings 1 Adonijah Set Himself Up as King/Bathsheba Intervened**

11. What was David's condition in 1 Kings: 1-4?

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12. Adonijah seeing the condition of his father took it upon himself to become king. How did he go about doing this and who did he enlist to help him? (1 Kings 1:5-10)

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13. Who did not join Adonijah's forces? Who was not invited to his coronation? What do you surmise were his reasons?

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14. Nathan the prophet approached Bathsheba with a plan to thwart Adonijah's plan. What was Bathsheba told to do?

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15. Nathan confirmed Bathsheba's story. What was David's response to Bathsheba? (1 Kings 1:29-31)

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16. King David then called in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada. What did he charge them to do? (1 Kings 1:32-35)

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17. What happened when Adonijah's guests heard that King David had appointed Solomon as king? How did Adonijah respond?

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Solomon reacted to his older brother's fear of rebuttal with compassion. Adonijah deserved death for his act of treason, but Solomon offered him the opportunity to turn

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from his evil intent. Adonijah then bowed down to King Solomon, but his heart had not turned from evil and it would eventually cost him his life.

**Prayer Focus: Are there any distant rumbles (worrisome rumors, political maneuvering) which are causing you concern? Remember God is in control. Leave the future in His hands today.**

**Day 4 - 1 Chronicles 28 David's Plans for the Temple/David's Charge to Solomon**

18. From clues in just this chapter, what kind of king was David? What kind of father was he? How are the two roles related?

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19. Why was David not permitted to build the temple? (1 Chronicles 22:6-8; 1 Chronicles 28:3)

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20. What was the charge that David gave to Solomon? (1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Chronicles 28:8-10)

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21. What was promised to Solomon if he was faithful? To David?

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22. How detailed was David in giving instructions to Solomon on the items that would be in the temple? Why was that important? (1 Chronicles 28:11-19)

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**Prayer Focus: What are some promises God has given you if you are faithful? Thank Him today for those promises.**

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**Day 5 - 1 Chronicles 29:1-20 King David's Reign Comes to a Close**

23. What had David collected for the construction of the Lord temple?

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24. In the devotion to the temple of God what did David give? What did it prompt others to do?

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25. What models of generosity were given to you if any?

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**Prayer Focus: Take David's prayer of praise in 1 Chronicles 29 and make it your own.**