

## The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 39 2 Samuel ch. 22-24, 1 Chronicles 21-29

Tuesday Night Bible Study, December 8, 2009

### --OUTLINE

- I. DAVID'S CENSUS AND GOD'S JUDGEMENT WHICH SET THE STAGE FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE
- II. DAVID'S PREPARATION FOR SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE
- III. DAVID'S LEGACY

### I. DAVID'S CENSUS AND GOD'S JUDGEMENT WHICH SET THE STAGE FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE

--it wasn't the census that was sinful but rather the attitude of self-reliance behind the census – depending on human strength instead of God's strength.

--2 Samuel 24:1 states that Satan moved David to perform the census while 1 Chronicles 21:1 states that God moved David to perform the census, yet it was David and Israel that were held accountable...

--from a human perspective this may appear to be a contradiction because it involves the profound reality of the sovereignty of God.

--a more simple way of viewing this event is that God simply allowed Satan to tempt David and David gave in to the temptation; or, God could see the sinful attitude in David's heart so He brought David into a situation that brought to the surface the attitude in David's heart so that it could be corrected.

--God's judgment on Israel was a form of chastening ("the Lord chastens those He loves...") and preservation; for if the attitude of self-reliance was left unchecked and Israel began depending on their own strength, they would have quickly lost far more people through war than God's judgment. Israel was a peculiar nation that was totally dependent on miraculous preservation for a miraculous purpose.

--it is likely that this sinful attitude was not only found in David's heart but also the heart of most people in Israel.

--2 Samuel 24:15-17: "So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. 16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, 'It is enough; now restrain your hand.' And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, 'Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house.'"

--the Lord relented and stopped the angel from bringing further destruction for one reason only – because He had provided a way to make atonement for sin through the sacrificial system of the Mosaic Law (which was merely a symbol pointing to the future reality of atonement through Christ)

--it was fitting then that God commanded David to make an altar at the place where the angel who brought about the judgment was standing...

--God spoke to David through the prophet Gad, "Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." (2 Samuel 24:18)

--the threshing floor of Araunah was changed from a place of judgment to a memorial of God's mercy.

--"threshing floors" were areas of flat ground that were used for beating stalks of wheat in order to get kernels of grain out of them.

--in Hebrew culture threshing was symbolic of destruction (2 Kings 13:7, Amos 1:3)

--the contrast between judgment and mercy at the threshing floor of Araunah becomes even more striking in the description of 1 Chronicles 21:14-27: "So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. 15 And God sent an angel to

Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite [*another name for Araunah*]. 16 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. ... 22 Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people." ... 26 And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. 27 So the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath."

--without atonement through Christ the picture would be so different... there would have been no mercy at this time nor any other time!

--practical point to ponder... how many times in our lives do we have opportunity to change our course of action and show mercy instead of judgment to others... "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:10-11)

## **--DAVID'S PREPARATION FOR SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE**

--after David offered sacrifices on the threshing floor of Araunah, he declared that it would be the site where the temple would be built (2 Chronicles 3:1).

--David spent his life fighting wars and expanding Israel's borders to the furthest point they would ever reach (before Christ's second return), and now at the end of his life he begins preparations for the task of building the temple that would be given to his son Solomon...

--1 Chronicles 22:1-16: "Then David said, "This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel." 2 So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God. 3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure, 4 and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. 5 Now David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it." So David made abundant preparations before his death. 6 Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. 7 And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; 8 but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.' 11 Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you. 12 Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. 13 Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed. 14 Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them. 15 Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work. 16 Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you."

--when David gave Solomon the plans for the temple he explained, "the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans." (1 Chronicles 28:19)

## **--DAVID'S LEGACY**

--David's life was filled with trials, failures, and triumphs, but through it all he kept seeking God and in the end his life pointed to Christ in a powerful way...

--Davidic Covenant...

--as we saw in part 37, God made an unconditional covenant with David that his throne would be established forever... It is a matter-of-fact of history that for 970 years after David lived his descendants were supernaturally preserved against all odds until Jesus was born from his descendants – the genealogy of Jesus begins with the statement, "a record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham..." (Matthew 1:1)

--groundwork for the temple...

--David was the greatest military leader in Israel's history, and because of his military victories Israel was brought to the secure place where the temple could be built which would serve as a memorial pointing to Christ for the rest of world history, even to this day!

--Christ road into Jerusalem on a donkey, in fulfillment of prophecy (Matthew 21:4-5), and formally presented himself as the king of Israel (in fulfillment of prophecy) during the annual passover festival when people from all around Israel brought family lambs to the temple to be offered as a Passover sacrifice and symbolically die in their place.

--rather than embracing Christ as their King, Israel, as a whole, crucified Him, thus fulfilling his destiny to die as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" – the one true Passover Sacrifice who literally died in our place in payment for our sin! (John 1:29)

--thus in David's life, through the Davidic Covenant and preparation for the temple, we see two brilliant rays of light foreshadowing the life of Christ – His rule as the eternal King and His sacrificial death to make payment for our sins.

**--like David, the greatest thing we can hope for is that our life would point to Christ...**

--the apostle Paul, while in prison, wrote, "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:20-22)

--as John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

--Galatians 6:14-15: "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."