

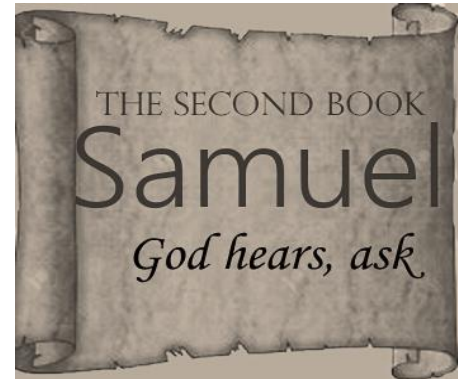
2 SAMUEL 24 vs 1

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In the 350 years of the judges before this book; years characterize by the phrase: and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. Obviously, the Lord said enough and sent Samuel, who was the last good judge, who moved in the power of the Spirit.

This second book of Samuel focuses on the history of the reign of King David, making Jerusalem both the political and religious center of the nation. At this time, Zadok is the high priest. The last chapters in this book include several events not in chronological order.



The census and the plague due to David's sin,

¹ And again the anger of the LORD was ignited against Israel, and He motivated David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

² For the king said to Joab the commander of the army, who was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number the people, that I may know the number of the people / why? the people of God do not need to be numbered by any man. To number is to claim possession.

³ But Joab said to the king, Now may the LORD your God add to the people, a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still sees: but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?

⁴ Nevertheless, the word of the king prevailed against Joab, and against the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king, to register the people of Israel.

⁵ And they crossed the Jordan, and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the city that is in the midst of the valley of Gad, and toward Jazer.

⁶ Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi; and they came to Dan-jaan, and around to Sidon,

⁷ and came to the fortress of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba.

⁸ So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

⁹ And Joab gave the total number of registered people to the king: and there were in Israel 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword; and the men of Judah were 500,000 men.

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¹⁰ Now David's heart troubled him after he numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, I have sinned greatly in what I have done: and now, I ask You, O LORD, take away the iniquity of your servant; for I have done very foolishly.

¹¹ When David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, the seer of David, saying,

¹² Go and speak to David, Thus says the LORD, I offer you three things; choose for yourself one of them, that I may do it to you.

¹³ So Gad came to David, and told him, and said to him, Will seven years of famine come to you in your land? or will you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? or will there be three days of pestilence in your land? Now consider, and see what answer I will return to Him who sent me.

¹⁴ And David said to Gad, I am in a great tight spot: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for His mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

¹⁵ So the LORD sent a pestilence on **Israel from the morning until the appointed time: and 70,000 men of the people from Dan even to Beersheba died.**

¹⁶ And when the angel stretched out his hand on Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD reconsidered the evil, and said to the angel who destroyed the people, It is enough: now relax your hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁷ And David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who struck down the people, and said, Lo, it is I who sinned, and I did wrongly: but these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me, and against the house of my father.

¹⁸ And Gad came that day to David, and said to him, Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁹ And David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD instructed.

²⁰ And Araunah looked down, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed his face to the ground before the king.

²¹ And Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be restrained from the people.

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²² And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him: behold, the oxen for the burnt sacrifice, and threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for wood.

²³ All these things O king, Araunah gives to the king. And Araunah said to the king, May the LORD your God accept you.

²⁴ Yet the king said to Araunah, No; but I will surely buy it of you for a price:

for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵ And there, David built an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Thus the LORD was moved by entreaty for the land, and the plague was restrained from Israel.

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