

1 Chronicles 21

King James Version (KJV)

21 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. (provoked= seduced, incited – better translation)

2Samuel-24:1 (David's success fueled his ego. Numbering Israel was a way to measure how great a king he had become. He forgot that God made all that possible for the people, not for David's ego. Satan's downfall was also ego)

²And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it. (Beersheba to Dan- south to north) (Joab was David's general in charge of Israel's army)

³And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? (trespass = sin; Joab is correct, David won't listen)

⁴Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

⁵And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword. (1,100,000 Israel, 470,000 Judah) (They had grown since the count in 2Samuel-24)

⁶But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab. (He did a poor job of the count because he knew that this counting of the fighting men would displease God. God made Israel great, not David. He was right)

⁷And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. (God didn't appreciate David's ego trip)

⁸And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. (David is finally wising up, but it's too late)

⁹ And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying, (seer= prophet of God; a beholder in a vision- the Hebrew translation)

¹⁰ Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

¹¹ So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee

¹² Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me. (As usual, the country pays the price for the idiocy of the ruler)

(Look at us today – God was thrown out of schools and yet they teach islam, abortion is no longer murder, political correctness has replaced moral correctness. The result is an evil and violent generation of young people. Atheists and perverts <LGBTQ> call Christians “bigots”, and the law sides with them)

¹³ And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man. (Let God decide because He is more fair and merciful than man)

¹⁴ So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. (David wasn't the only sinner in the country. The people were not innocent either. There was rebellion against David <Absalom>, and many other trespasses. God punished the whole country to wake them up and get their heads on straight)

¹⁵ And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. (evil= hurt – bad translation) (The Septuagint states that the pestilence only lasted until noon on the first day, when God stopped the angel. God had mercy on the people)

¹⁶ And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand

stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. (They humbled themselves and repented of their sins)

¹⁷ And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued. (evil= injury or hurt – bad translation) (David is taking responsibility for what he did)

¹⁸ Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. (Genesis-22:2 – This is Mount Moriah, where Abraham was commanded to sacrifice Isaac. Also this would be the site of Solomon's temple to God)

NOTE - (David didn't choose this site, God did by sending His angel there)

¹⁹ And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD. (David is obeying)

²⁰ And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat.

²¹ And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground.

²² Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. (David will pay a fair price for the property)

²³ And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. (Ornan is a generous man. He is offering the property to David for free. He just saw the Angel of the Lord, so he knows this is coming from God)

²⁴ And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer

burnt offerings without cost. (David bought the place and oxen that would be sacrificed. He knew that you don't offer someone else's property to God)

²⁵ So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. 2Samuel-24:24 (David gave 50 shekels of silver for the threshing floor alone. The rest must have been for the rest of the property and the oxen. There were two separate transactions)

²⁶ And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. (Offerings accepted by God were consumed by fire)

NOTE – (This chapter, verse 27 – end, as well as chapters 22 – 29 are unique to Chronicles and not in Samuel or Kings)

²⁷ And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof. (This is the angel that was standing by, ready to destroy Jerusalem)

²⁸ At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there. (From that time forward, he only sacrificed there – better translation)

²⁹ For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, were at that season in the high place at Gibeon. (Zadok is there)

³⁰ But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the LORD. (David was abased, for exalting himself – lesson learned) (Also, David now knew that God had chosen Mt Moriah as His new place of sacrifice for David)