

# 1 Chronicles 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on David's census and divine judgment. The Hebrew term חטא (chet) - sin/offense is theologically significant here, pointing to Even godly leaders sin and face consequences. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about Even godly leaders sin and face consequences. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Christ bears judgment for sin on our behalf.

## Historical Context

---

**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of David's census and divine judgment occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Even godly leaders sin and face consequences challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ bears judgment for sin on our behalf teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

---

בְּמַשְׁחִית	לִירוּשָׁלָם	וּמְלָא־הָרָן	בְּאֱלֹהָיָם	וַיִּשְׁלַח	sent
					And God
					And the angel
					unto Jerusalem
					it and as he was destroying
					H7843
עַל	יְהֹוָה	בָּאָה	בָּאָה	בְּמַשְׁחִית	it and as he was destroying
					beheld
					of the LORD
					and he repented
					H5921
					H7843
					H7200
					H3068
					H5162
בְּמַשְׁחִית	וּמְלָא־הָרָן	וְאָמַר	בְּרָע־הָרָן	בְּ	it and as he was destroying
					him of the evil
					and said
					And the angel
					it and as he was destroying
					H7843
					H7227
עַמְּדָה	יְהֹוָה	וּמְלָא־הָרָן	וְאָמַר	בְּ	It is enough
					stay
					now thine hand
					And the angel
					of the LORD
					H5975
					H3068
					H4397
					H3027
					H7503
					H6258
עַמְּדָה	יְהֹוָה	וְאָמַר	בְּרָע־הָרָן	בְּ	It is enough
					of Ornan
					the Jebusite
					H2983
					H771
					H1637
					by the threshingfloor

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Genesis 6:6** (Repentance): And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

**Exodus 32:14** (Repentance): And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

**Jeremiah 26:18** (References Lord): Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith

the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

**Mark 14:41** (Parallel theme): And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)