

# 1 Chronicles 21:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And 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?

## Analysis

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**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

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**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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיֹּאמֶר יָאָב	יְוָשָׁף	יְהוָה	עַל	עַמּוֹ וְ	כְּהֵם
<b>answered</b>	<b>And Joab</b>	<b>so many more</b>	<b>The LORD</b>	<b>H5921</b>	<b>make his people</b>
H559	H3097	H3254	H3068	H5971	H1992
מֵאַה	פְּעִמּוֹת	כְּלֹא	אֲדֹנִים	כָּל מַמְּפָטָל	
<b>an hundred</b>	<b>times</b>	<b>H3808</b>	<b>are they not all my lord's</b>	<b>the king</b>	<b>H3605</b>
H3967	H6471		H113	H4428	
אֲדֹנִים	לְעָבָדִים	לְמַה	רְקִיעָה	זֹאת	
<b>are they not all my lord's</b>	<b>servants</b>	<b>H4100</b>	<b>require</b>	<b>H2063</b>	
H113	H5650		H1245		
אֲדֹנִים	לְמַה	יְהוָה	לְמַה	לְאַשְׁמָה	
<b>are they not all my lord's</b>	<b>H4100</b>	<b>H1961</b>	<b>H4100</b>	<b>this thing why will he be a cause of trespass</b>	<b>H819</b>
H113					
לִשְׁבָּאָל					
<b>to Israel</b>					
H3478					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 1:11** (References Lord): (The LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!)