

2 Samuel 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

Analysis

And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Census and Plague, emphasizing pride, judgment, provision. David's census represents prideful self-reliance rather than dependence on God. The plague's devastation demonstrates sin's consequences extending beyond the sinner. David's purchase of Araunah's threshing floor and sacrifice there establishes the future temple location. Theological themes include the danger of pride, corporate consequences of leaders' sins, the necessity of proper sacrifice, God's mercy in limiting judgment, and divine purpose even in disciplinary actions.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 24 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding pride, judgment, provision provide

crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of pride, judgment, provision?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

אַת	סִפְר	כִּי	אַתְּ	אַחֲרֵי	לְבָב	לְבָב	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ
smote	heart	And David	H853	him after	H3651	that he had numbered			H853
H5221	H3820	H1732		H310				H5608	

וְאָמַר בַּעַמֵּד אֶל הַיְהוּנִים
the people said And David H413 and now I beseech thee O LORD
 H5971 H559 H1732 H3068

עָשָׂה אֶתְכֶּן	מְאָדֵן	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה יְהוָה	עָשָׂה אֶתְכֶּן
I have sinned	for I have done very	H834	in that I have done	H6258

וְעֹזֶב תִּהְיֶה תְּנַא אֶת זֶה | עַזְוַת תְּנַא בְּעֵבֶר תְּנַא וְעַזְוַת
and now I beseech thee O LORD take away H4994 H853 the iniquity of thy servant
H3068 H5674 H5771 H5650

מָאֵד:	נִסְכֶּתֶת	כִּי
H3588	foolishly	for I have done very

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 12:13 (Sin): And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

1 Samuel 13:13 (References Lord): And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

Proverbs 28:13 (Sin): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

1 Samuel 24:5 (References David): And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

1 John 1:9 (Sin): If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (References Lord): For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

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