

2 Samuel 24:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men.

Analysis

So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וַיֵּשְׁלַח	יְהוָה	דָּבָר	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	מִהַבֹּקֶר	וְעַד
sent	So the LORD	a pestilence	upon Israel	from the morning	H5704
H5414	H3068	H1698	H3478	H1242	
עַד	מִיּוֹם	וַיָּמָת	מִן	הָעָם	מִדָּן
even to the time	appointed	and there died	H4480	of the people	from Dan
H6256	H4150	H4191		H5971	H1835
וְעַד	בְּאֵר	שִׁבְעִים	אֶלְפֵי	אִישׁ:	
H0	even to Beersheba	seventy	thousand	men	
	H884	H7657	H505	H376	

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 21:14 (References Lord): So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.

1 Chronicles 27:24 (References Israel): Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of king David.

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