

2 Samuel 24:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

Analysis

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיִּשְׂלַח	יָד בָּ	וַיִּמְלֹא	יְרוּשָׁלַם	הַמַּשְׁחֵ ית	וַיִּתְּנָם
stretched out	his hand	And the angel	upon Jerusalem	that destroyed	repented
H7971	H3027	H4397	H3389	H7843	H5162
יְהוָה	אֵל	הַ רָעָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיִּמְלֹא	הַמַּשְׁחֵ ית
it the LORD	H413	him of the evil	and said	And the angel	that destroyed
H3068		H7451	H559	H4397	H7843
בָּעָם	כִּי ב	עַתָּה	הִרְכָּה	יָד בָּ	וַיִּמְלֹא
the people	It is enough	H6258	stay	his hand	And the angel
H5971	H7227		H7503	H3027	H4397
יְהוָה	עַם	גֶּרְן	הָאֵרָנָה	הַיְּבֻסִי	
H1961	H5973	was by the threshingplace	of Araunah	the Jebusite	
		H1637	H728	H2983	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:23 (References Lord): For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

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

Acts 12:23 (References Lord): And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

2 Kings 19:35 (References Lord): And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

2 Chronicles 3:1 (References Lord): Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

1 Samuel 15:11 (Repentance): It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

2 Chronicles 32:21 (References Lord): And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.