

2 Samuel 24:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

Analysis

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

בְּמָלָא קָרְבָּן אֶת בְּרָאָתְךָ וְיָאמֵר	and said	And David	H413	עִלָּוְתְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר	unto the LORD	H3068	בָּרָאָתְךָ וְיָאמֵר	when he saw	H7200	בְּמָלָא קָרְבָּן אֶת בְּרָאָתְךָ וְיָאמֵר	the angel	H4397
H559	H1732			H3068			H7200			H4397		
וְיָאמֵר בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר אַנְכִּי הָבֵדָה וְיָאמֵר	that smote	the people	H5971	וְיָאמֵר בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר	and said	H559	וְיָאמֵר אַנְכִּי הָבֵדָה וְיָאמֵר	Lo I have sinned	H2398	וְיָאמֵר אַנְכִּי הָבֵדָה וְיָאמֵר	the people	H595
H5221					H2009		H595					
בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר אַנְכִּי הָבֵדָה וְיָאמֵר	and I have done wickedly	H5753	H428	בְּאַזְעָה אֶת כָּל הַבָּשָׂר וְיָאמֵר	but these sheep	H6629	H4100	בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר	what have they done	H6213	בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר	
וְיָאמֵר בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר	let thine hand	H3027	H0	וְיָאמֵר בְּעֵמֶת הַמִּפְּךָ הָיָה וְיָאמֵר	house	H1004						
H1961	H4994											
אָבִי:												
I pray thee be against me and against my father's												

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 74:1 (Parallel theme): O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?

2 Samuel 24:10 (Sin): 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.

Job 42:6 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.