

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

וַיֹּאמֶר and said H559	וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד And David H1732	אֶל H413	יְהוָה unto the LORD H3068	כִּי רָאָה when he saw H7200	אֶת H853	הַמַּלְאָךְ the angel H4397
הַמֶּכֶה that smote H5221	בְּעָם the people H5971	וַיֹּאמֶר and said H559	הֵינִי H2009	אֲנֹכִי H595	חָטָאתִי Lo I have sinned H2398	וְאֲנֹכִי H595
וְעָשִׂיתִי and I have done wickedly H5753		וְאֵלֶיךָ H428	הֵצֵא but these sheep H6629	מֶה H4100	עָשׂוּ what have they done H6213	
וְתָהָא H1961	נְאֻמְךָ H4994	לְיָדְךָ let thine hand H3027	בְּיָדִי H0	וּבֵיתִי house H1004		
אָרִי: I pray thee be against me and against my father's H1						

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.