

# 2 Samuel 24:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

## Analysis

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**And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.**

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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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אֵל בְּתַת לְגַנְתָּךְ אָדָנִי  
the king H413  
אָמַר אֲכָלְךָ מִדְעָת  
Wherefore is my lord H113  
אָמַר אֲכָלְךָ מִדְעָת  
And Araunah H4069  
said H559

בְּגַת כִּי אָתָּה מִעַמְךָ עָבֵד וְ  
the threshingfloor H1637  
לְקַנְתָּה תְּדַבֵּר אָמַר  
To buy H7069  
And David H1732  
said H559  
to his servant H5650

מִעַל כְּפָרָה הַתְּמִימָה רְאֵת  
that the plague H5921  
לְבָנֶה וְתַּחֲזֵק אֶל  
unto the LORD H3068  
an altar H4196  
of thee to build H1129

בְּעַמְךָ  
from the people  
H5971

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