

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

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

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

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

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

אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֲדֹנִי	בָּא מֵדָוִד	אָרָא וְנָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	
the king	Wherefore is my lord	come	And Araunah	said	
H413	H113	H935	H4069	H559	
הַגֶּן הַזֶּה	אֶת מַעְמַרְךָ	לִקְנֹת	דָּוִד	וַיֹּאמֶר	עֲבָדָיו
the threshingfloor		To buy	And David	said	to his servant
H1637	H853	H7069	H1732	H559	H5650
יָמַעַל	הַמִּגַּפָּה	וְתִעַצֵּר	לִיהוָה	מִזְבֵּחַ	לְבָנֹת
	that the plague	may be stayed	unto the LORD	an altar	of thee to build
H5921	H4046	H6113	H3068	H4196	H1129
					הָעָם:
					from the people
					H5971

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