

2 Samuel 24:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

Analysis

And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

אָל	אָלע ייִ	יהוָה	וְיוֹסֵף	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אָל	יוֹאָב בֶּן־נֹחֵם	אָמַר
	thy God	Now the LORD	add	the king		And Joab	said
H413	H430	H3068	H3254	H4428	H413	H3097	H559
מֵאָה	וְכִהֵם	וְכִהֵם	וְכִהֵם	הָעָם			
they be an hundredfold	how many soever	how many soever	how many soever	unto the people			
H3967	H1992	H1992	H1992	H5971			
רָא וְזֶה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְעֵינֶיךָ	פָּעַם יָמִים			
may see	the king	it but why doth my lord	and that the eyes				
H7200	H4428	H113	H5869	H6471			
הַזֶּה:	בְּדָבָר	חֵפְץ	לִמְנָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ		
in this thing	delight			the king	it but why doth my lord		
H2088	H1697	H2654	H4100	H4428	H113		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:11 (References God): (The LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!)

Psalms 115:14 (References Lord): The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.