

2 Samuel 24:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

Analysis

Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

וְעַל יְוָאָב אֶל בְּנֵי קָרְבָּן בְּנֵי לְגָנָן נִתְּנָהָר בְּנֵי קָרְבָּן

prevailed word Notwithstanding the king's And Joab and against the captains

H2388

H1697

H4428

H413

And Joab

H5921

וְשָׁרֵב וְשָׁרֵב וְשָׁרֵב וְשָׁרֵב וְשָׁרֵב

and against the captains of the host went out And Joab and against the captains

H8269

H2428

H3318

H3097

H8269

לְפָנֵי בְּמִלְחָמָה בְּנֵי לְגָנָן בְּנֵי לְגָנָן

of the host from the presence Notwithstanding the king's to number

H2428

H6440

H4428

אֶת לְפָנָק דָּ

H853

וְשָׁרָאֵל אֶת בְּנֵי

the people of Israel

H5971

H853

H3478

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:29 (Parallel theme): Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 (Kingdom): Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?