

# 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

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**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

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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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**1 John 4:8** — God is 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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וַיִּסֹּף ק	דִּבֶּר	הֵם לֶךְ	אֶל	וְיֹאב ב	וַעַל ל
prevailed	word	Notwithstanding the king's	H413	And Joab	H5921
H2388	H1697	H4428		H3097	
וְשָׂרֵי י	וְשָׂרֵי י	הֵם יל	וַיֵּצֵא א	וְיֹאב ב	וְשָׂרֵי י
and against the captains	and against the captains	of the host	went out	And Joab	and against the captains
H8269	H8269	H2428	H3318	H3097	H8269
הֵם יל	לְפָנַי י	הֵם לֶךְ	אֶת	לְפָקֵד ד	
of the host	from the presence	Notwithstanding the king's	to number		H853
H2428	H6440	H4428	H6485		
הָעָם	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
the people	H853	of Israel			
H5971		H3478			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?