

2 Samuel 24:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

Analysis

And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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 בְּעֵמֶת מִפְקָד מִסְפָּר יְוָאָת רַאֲתָה
gave up And Joab H853 the sum of the number of the people H413
H5414 H3097 H4557 H4662 H5971

אֶלְף מֵאָה שָׁמֵנָה וְשָׁמֵנָה לְשָׁבָא וְתָתָה
unto the king H1961 and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand H505
H4428 H3478 H8083 H3967

אִישׁ אִישׁ שְׁלֹשֶׁ מֵלֵךְ אִישׁ אִישׁ אִישׁ אִישׁ אִישׁ
and the men valiant that drew the sword and the men of Judah were five H2568
H376 H2428 H8025 H2719 H376 H3063

אִישׁ אֶלְף מֵאָה וְשָׁמֵנָה
hundred thousand and the men H376 H505 H376

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