

Punishment of Pestilence

2 Samuel 24:1-25

This chapter's events were near the end of D's reign.

1. Numbering – v. 1-9

- 1: the problem of this chapter begins in v. 1. Why was it a problem? 1C 21:1 – written the same time as 1S/2S.
- God does not make man do things to get punished; man does them on his own!
- Why was God angry? Probably for the rebellions under Absalom and Sheba.
- Why was this a sin? Moses numbered the people twice (Numbers). The Shepherd numbers his sheep. The Bible doesn't record why but the Bible records it as sinful – and Joab know it! (And D admits it in v. 10!)
- 2-9: not a complete list of cities
- 3: Joab's protest was backed by all the army. The people didn't want to be enlisted again.
- 5: DT. 2:36: forms the Southern boundary of the territory taken by Israel from Sihon.
- 6: did not fully obey D's orders. Levi & Benjamin not in the numbering.
- 9: Chronicles gives different numbers; Hebrews numbered things inconsistently.

2. Acknowledgement – v. 10-17

- D was going to proudly boast in his numbering
- God would punish by reducing their number by famine, war, or pestilence.
- Not immoral on God's part to punish both the sinful king and the sinful people.
- 15: appointed time: ambiguous; possibly a reference to three days.
- 70,000: worst destructive plague upon Israel; 14,700 lost in the rebellion of Korah; 24,000 lost at Baal-Peor.
- Barnes: "Even in this pestilence was seen the mercy of God."
- Araunah: just N of D's capital, this place well remembered as Solomon's temple soon erected nearby.

3. Purchase – v. 18-25

- 24: threshing floor bought for 50 shekels of silver; 1C 21:25 states 600 shekels of gold. People say this is a discrepancy, but the 600 was for the whole site.
- Araunah had a large estate – would want to build the temple on a large area.

- Remarkable insight to the nature of worship: too many give as little as they can to God!

Lessons:

1. D listened to Satan instead of God; even Joab opposing him did not change his mind. Today, no matter how tempting Satan's offer may be, it never works out as well as we hope it will!
2. A true characteristic of D was he was always willing to acknowledge when he had sinned. 1 John 1:9.
3. It speaks volumes to the character of D that he was willing to pay full price for the location of his altar. A true Christian will never allow others to pay his share – he will give more than the minimum!

© 2022 Justin D. Reed

justinreedbible.com

P. O. Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190

PowerPoint № 218 accompanies this lesson

March 6, 2022 AM Arlington Church of Christ