

DAVID'S GREATEST SIN AND ITS GLORIOUS AFTERMATH

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with Pastor Dan Betzer



The picture above, taken from the southeast corner, is the famed Temple Mount in Jerusalem. During David's lifetime, his personal home/palace was located off the picture to the left side, in a valley known for centuries as the Ophel. The actual Temple Mount was (in David's lifetime) a farm owned by a man named Araunah.

II Samuel 24:16-25

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing place of Araunah the Jebusite. [17] And David spake unto the Lord when he saw the angel that smote the people, and

1 *said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what*
2 *have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against*
3 *my father's house.*

4 *[18] And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear*
5 *an altar unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.*

6 *[19] And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the Lord*
7 *commanded. [20] And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his*
8 *servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed*
9 *himself before the king on his face upon the ground. [21] And Araunah*
10 *said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said,*
11 *To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the Lord, that*
12 *the plague may be stayed from the people. [22] And Araunah said unto*
13 *David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto*
14 *him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing*
15 *instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. [23] All these*
16 *things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said*
17 *unto the king, The Lord thy God accept thee. [24] And the king said*
18 *unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither*
19 *will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost*
20 *me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty*
21 *shekels of silver.** [25] And David built there an altar unto the Lord,*
22 *and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord was*
23 *intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.*

24

25 ***We do not know for sure what fifty shekels of silver would have been*
26 *worth today. Another reference puts the amount much higher and had to*
27 *do with the entire purchase, altar, animals, etc.*

28

29 *It is generally believed that David bought that property (a brilliant move)*
30 *in order to have the site for the coming Temple that Solomon would build.*
31 *However, there was another reason - and the real one - that King David*
32 *wanted that land:*

33

34 *II Samuel 24:15-18*

35 *So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the*
36 *time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-*

1 *sheba (Dan was the north end of the country and Beersheba was the*
2 *south) seventy thousand men. [16] And when the angel stretched out his*
3 *hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented him of the evil,*
4 *and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now*
5 *thine hand. And the angel of the Lord was by the threshingplace of*
6 *Araunah the Jebusite. [17] And David spake unto the Lord when he saw*
7 *the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have*
8 *done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I*
9 *pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.*
10 *[18] And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear*
11 *an altar unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.*

12

13 Why would God react so strongly to David's numbering the people? The
14 issue was David's apparent change of reliance from God to normal, man-
15 made values instead. The human concept was to rely on numbers and
16 military might; whereas God wanted Israel to rely totally upon Him.

17

18 This sin is repeated today when churches rely on marketing and
19 salesmanship to gain success. There is nothing wrong about how the
20 Church may better serve its people or how practical matters may be
21 improved. But when the church takes surveys of felt needs and desires so
22 as to identify consumers and convert them into customers – paying
23 customers – by redesigning its worship and message, then like David in
24 this census the church repudiates its reliance upon God, places its own
25 prowess in the place of His provision, denies the very Gospel by
26 implication, and angers God so that He judges it and allows it to spiritually
27 wither. May God help us so that this does not become a sin of First
28 Assembly of God!

29

30

THE TRAGEDY OF DAVID'S SIN

31

32 Should anyone question God's anger at sin, this 24th chapter of II Samuel
33 should repeal the query.

34

35

36

1 II Samuel 24:13

2 ***So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven***
3 ***years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three***
4 ***months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be***
5 ***three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I***
6 ***shall return to him that sent me.***

7

8 The world today understands “pestilence” with the virus now affecting so
9 many. David chose that punishment for his sin - a punishment that would
10 kill 70,000 men in those awful three days. Sin has repercussions that
11 boggle the mind. See, we don’t seem to grasp how much God hates sin!
12 He seeks with His might to stamp it out; and, further, no sin will ever be
13 allowed in Heaven to come.

14

15 Revelation 22:15

16 ***For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and***
17 ***murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.***

18

19 David here was like so many spoken of in Galatians 6:1:

20 ***Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore***
21 ***such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also***
22 ***be tempted.***

23

24 “Overtaken.” David probably had no intention of provoking God or
25 bringing divine wrath upon the nation. The temptation to do what he did
26 came from Satan himself:

27

28 I Chronicles 21:1

29 ***And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number***
30 ***Israel.*** Do we have any clues as to why God was so angry with so many?

31

32 We don’t know for Scripture is silent on the issue. It could be that these
33 people had followed Absalom when he rebelled against David. It may
34 have been that pride filled their hearts following their conquests in the
35 Promised Land. The Word is adamant that the Lord gave the victories but

1 it could be the Israeli leadership somehow believed it was all about them,
2 not God.

3

4 David's general Joab tried to warn him against taking a census.

5

6 II Samuel 24:3-4

7 *And Joab said unto the king, Now the Lord thy God add unto the people,*
8 *how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord*
9 *the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?*
10 *[4] Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against*
11 *the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out*
12 *from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.*

13

14 A person is foolish to turn aside wise counsel from others. Perhaps that
15 pursuit comes from thinking "we know it all." Now if that counsel
16 contradicts the Scripture, one should discard it because truth is found in
17 the Word. But a lot of the time we get into trouble because we will not
18 stop to listen to the godly advice of others. People who truly do love us
19 will warn us that we are headed down a wrong road. But we just go on
20 ahead.

21

22 Proverbs 16:25

23 *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are*
24 *the ways of death.*

25

26

CONVICTION

27

28 It did not take long for David to realize he had made a mistake. The big
29 difference between David and Saul, it seems to me, is that both failed God,
30 but Saul didn't seem to care. He just kept on going. But conviction would
31 grip David and he would go to God almost immediately:

32

33 Psalm 51:1-19

34 *To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet*
35 *came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

1 *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:*
2 *according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my*
3 *transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse*
4 *me from my sin. [3] For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin*
5 *is ever before me. [4] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done*
6 *this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest,*
7 *and be clear when thou judgest. [5] Behold, I was shapen in iniquity;*
8 *and in sin did my mother conceive me. [6] Behold, thou desirest truth in*
9 *the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know*
10 *wisdom. [7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and*
11 *I shall be whiter than snow. [8] Make me to hear joy and gladness; that*
12 *the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. [9] Hide thy face from*
13 *my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. [10] Create in me a clean heart,*
14 *O God; and renew a right spirit within me. [11] Cast me not away from*
15 *thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. [12] Restore unto me*
16 *the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. [13] Then*
17 *will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto*
18 *thee. [14] Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my*
19 *salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. [15] O*
20 *Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. [16]*
21 *For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not*
22 *in burnt offering. [17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a*
23 *broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. [18] Do good*
24 *in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. [19]*
25 *Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with*
26 *burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks*
27 *upon thine altar.*

28

29 Conviction is an amazing gift from God to us. When I sin, it does not take
30 a day or so to know about it. Almost immediately after the deed is done,
31 I can sense God's convicting presence.

32

33 John 16:7-13

34 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away:*
35 *for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I*
36 *depart, I will send him unto you. [8] And when he is come, he will*

1 *reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9] Of*
2 *sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness, because I go*
3 *to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11] Of judgment, because the*
4 *prince of this world is judged. [12] I have yet many things to say unto*
5 *you, but ye cannot bear them now. [13] Howbeit when he, the Spirit of*
6 *truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of*
7 *himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will*
8 *shew you things to come.*

9
10 I don't remember that my father ever hit me. He never needed to. When I
11 would see the hurt or disappointment in his eyes, my spirit would be
12 crushed. I desperately never wanted to do anything that would cause him
13 pain or sorrow. Conviction is not pleasant but we should be grateful for
14 it. It shows us our Heavenly Father still loves us and considers us to be
15 His children.

16 17 **SIN ALWAYS NECESSITATES SHED BLOOD**

18
19 In the Old Testament (covenant) it was the blood of animals. But in the
20 New Testament (covenant) it was the blood of the Lamb, our Lord Jesus
21 Christ. Without it, there is no remissions of sins.

22
23 Hebrews 9:22

24 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without*
25 *shedding of blood is no remission.*