

1 Chronicles 21:1-30 **David numbered fighting men of Israel – God's Response**

Satan moved David to Number Israel (2 Samuel 24)

1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

2 So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it."

3 And Joab answered, "May Yahweh (the Lord) make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, adoney (my lord) the king, are they not all adoney (my lord's) servants? Why then does adoney (my lord) require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.

5 Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.

6 But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

Elohiym's Response

7 And Elohiym (God) was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.

8 So David said to Elohiym (God), "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

9 Then Yahweh (the Lord) spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, 10 "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.'"

11 So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Choose for yourself, 12 either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of Yahweh (the Lord) — the plague in the land, with the angel of Yahweh (the Lord) destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

David's Choice of Faith – The Plague That Followed and the Angel Of Yahweh

13 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of Yahweh (the Lord), for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

14 So Yahweh (the Lord) sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.

15 And Elohiym (God) sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, Yahweh (the Lord) looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of Yahweh (the Lord) stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

David's Prayer of Intercession and Confession

16 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of Yahweh (the Lord) standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

17 And David said to Elohiym (God), "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your

hand, I pray, O Yahweh Elohay (Lord my God), be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."

David bought Threshing Floor of Ornan and Built an Alter -

18 Therefore, the angel of Yahweh (the Lord) commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to Yahweh (the Lord) on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

19 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of Yahweh (the Lord).

20 Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.

21 So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.

22 Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to Yahweh (the Lord). You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

23 But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let adoney (my lord) the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."

24 Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for Yahweh (the Lord), nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."

25 So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place.

26 And David built there an altar to Yahweh (the Lord), and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on Yahweh (the Lord); and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.

27 So Yahweh (the Lord) commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath.

28 At that time, when David saw that Yahweh (the Lord) had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.

The Tabernacle of Yahweh and its Altar were at the high place in Gibeon

29 For the tabernacle of Yahweh (the Lord) and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.

30 But David could not go before it to inquire of Elohiym (God), for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of Yahweh (the Lord).

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Facts Revealed:

Satan moved David to Number Israel (2 Samuel 24)

- ✧ Satan was allowed to move David to number the fighting men of Israel. [1 Chronicles 21:1-2]
- ✧ Satan cannot bring against us any temptation that is beyond our ability to deal with. [1 Corinthians 10:13]
- ✧ Yahweh sends His servants choices because He wants His Servants tested.
- ✧ Joab disapproved because he considered it a cause of guilt in Israel, giving David a choice, but David was king and his word prevailed. [1 Chronicles 21:3-5]
- ✧ Joab left out the tribes of Levi and Benjamin because the command was abominable to him. [1 Chronicles 21:5-6] All Israel had one **million one hundred thousand** men who drew

the sword, and Judah had **four hundred and seventy thousand** men who drew the sword, total of **one million, five hundred and seventy thousand**.

Elohiym's Response

- ✧ Yahweh was displeased so He struck Israel. [1 Chronicles 21:7]
- ✧ David confessed his sin and asked Elohiym to take away his foolish iniquity. [1 Chronicles 21:8]
 - ✧ We may confess our sins and pray a prayer of repentance, but there are still consequences for our actions.
- ✧ Yahweh gave David three choices for punishment.
Three years of famine, Three months of defeat by enemies, Three days of plague by the hand of Yahweh. [1 Chronicles 21:9-12]

David's Choice of Faith – The Plague That Followed and the Angel Of Yahweh

- ✧ David's response indicated his great faith in the mercy of Yahweh. [1 Chronicles 21:13]
- ✧ The plague against all the territory of Israel killed seventy thousand men. [1 Chronicles 21:12,14]
- ✧ Elohiym sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, as he was destroying Yahweh said "Enough, restrain your hand." [1 Chronicles 21:15]
- ✧ The angel of Yahweh was seen standing between heaven and earth with a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. [1 Chronicles 21:15-16]

David's Prayer of Intercession and Confession

- ✧ David and the elders of Israel saw the angel and fell on their faces clothed in sackcloth. [1 Chronicles 21:16]
- ✧ David's prayer of intercession claimed full responsibility for the judgment they faced and appealed to Yahweh for the innocent of Israel who had nothing to do with the sin of numbering the people.
- ✧ David desired to take the consequence for the sin upon his own self and family but not against God's people.

David bought Threshing Floor of Ornan and Built an Alter -

- ✧ Yahweh sent the command through the angel of Yahweh and through Gad, David's prophet, for David to build an altar to Yahweh on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
 - ✧ Ornan the Jebusite was of the remnant of the inhabitants who at the first resided in Jerusalem which was at first called Jebus. [Joshua 18:28] The Jebusites were among the Canaanite people Yahweh had dispossessed to give the land to Israel. [Exodus 3:8, 17, 13:5, 23:23, 32:2, 34:11, Numbers 13:29, Deuteronomy 7:1, 20:17, Joshua 3:10, 9:1, 11:3, 12:8, 15:63]
- ✧ Ornan also saw the angel, so when David asked to buy the threshing floor for a place to build an altar to Yahweh, Ornan offered to give it to David along with the oxen and threshing implements. [1 Chronicles 21:18-23] (Ornan is named Araunah in the story of 2 Samuel 24:18-25)
- ✧ David refused the offer insisting on purchasing it at full price, saying, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for Yahweh (the Lord), nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing." [1 Chronicles 21:24]
- ✧ David bought the threshing floor and built an altar to Yahweh where he offered burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on Yahweh. Yahweh answered by fire on the altar. [1 Chronicles 21:25-26]
- ✧ Yahweh commanded the angel and he returned his sword to its sheath. [1 Chronicles 21:17]
- ✧ David saw it and he sacrificed there. [1 Chronicles 21:28]

The Tabernacle of Yahweh and its Altar were at the high place in Gibeon

- ✧ Here we learn that the Tabernacle and its furnishings (except of the Ark of the Covenant) were still where Samuel had them at the high place of Gibeon. David was afraid of the

sword of the angel of Yahweh, so he could not go there to inquire of Elohiym. [[1 Chronicles 21:29-30](#)]