



Adult Sunday School

Lesson-20: David counts the men

Date:
27 Nov 2022
(Sunday)

Time: 9.40am

Venue: Sanctuary



- (1) Background: David was restored to his kingship.
- (2) God was angry with David and He moved David against the Israelites.
- (3) David ordered the counting of all the people in Israel. (2 Sam 24:1-9)

(4) The sin of David for counting the men (2 Sam 24:10)

(5) God's punishment to David (2 Sam 24: 11-15)

(a) God gave 3 choices to David as punishment:

- 3 years of famine throughout the land, or
- 3 months of fleeing from enemies, or
- 3 days of severe plague throughout the land.

(2 Sam 24:13)

(6) David chose to be punished directly by God, not his enemies. (2 Sam 24:14)

(7) God sent 3 days of severe plague and 70,000 people died.

(8) As the Angel of Death was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord stopped the destruction. The Angel of Death was at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (2 Sam 24:16)



A threshing floor

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Meaning of Jebusite: A member of the Canaanite people living around the ancient city of Jebus at the site of Jerusalem. They are not Jews. They were the original people in Canaan.

Meaning of Threshing Floor: A place where the harvest was prepared by separating the grain from the useless straw for the purpose of exposing and collecting the most valuable part of the crop.

(9) David was guilt stricken at the death of his people. (2 Sam 24:17)

Spiritual Lessons:

(10) David wanted to know how many fighting men to feed his pride. He realised his sin (2 Sam 24:7,8). It appeared to be a 'small' sin. But, in God's sight it was a great sin.

Let us be careful and not test God with 'small' sins:

(a) white lies – no one is hurt by such lies.

(b) Wicked thoughts – no one is hurt by our thoughts.

(c) Pride – when we compare with one another and are proud of our achievements, wealth, status, knowledge, properties, educational qualification.



**PRIDE
GOES BEFORE
DESTRUCTION,
AND A HAUGHTY
SPIRIT BEFORE
A FALL.**

PROVERBS 16:18

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The sin of pride:

- The pride of Lucifer – Isaiah 14: 12-15
- The pride of David in counting the men – 2 Sam 24:10-15
- The pride of Saul – 1 Samuel 13: 8-14, 1 Samuel 15

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(d) There is pride when:

- We compare our houses and condos
- We compare our children's schools and results
- We compare our schools and academic achievements
- We compare our jobs
- Comparing upper class, middle class, low class
- Comparing status in society
- Comparing wealth, investment, cars and properties
- Comparing how well one speaks

(e) Example of how subtle pride creeps in

- A friend boasting that he lives in a condo by talking about his swimming pool.
- A friend name dropping VIPs whom he knows of.
- A friend telling you he comes from a prestigious school or university.
- Someone telling you that he/she serves in a high position in church.
- Someone telling a younger person that the former is older and therefore more experienced, wiser, more deserving of respect etc.
- A pastor asserting himself: “This is not the way to treat a reverend!”

(11) The punishment for our sin may be severe

The severity of the punishment ensures that we do not repeat our sin again.

In the case of David's sins:

(a) 4 sons had to die for David's murder and adultery.

(b) David was filled with distress due to Absalom's rebellion.

(c) 70,000 persons died due to his sin of counting the men.

(12) The punishment may be in the lives of our loved ones, not ourselves.

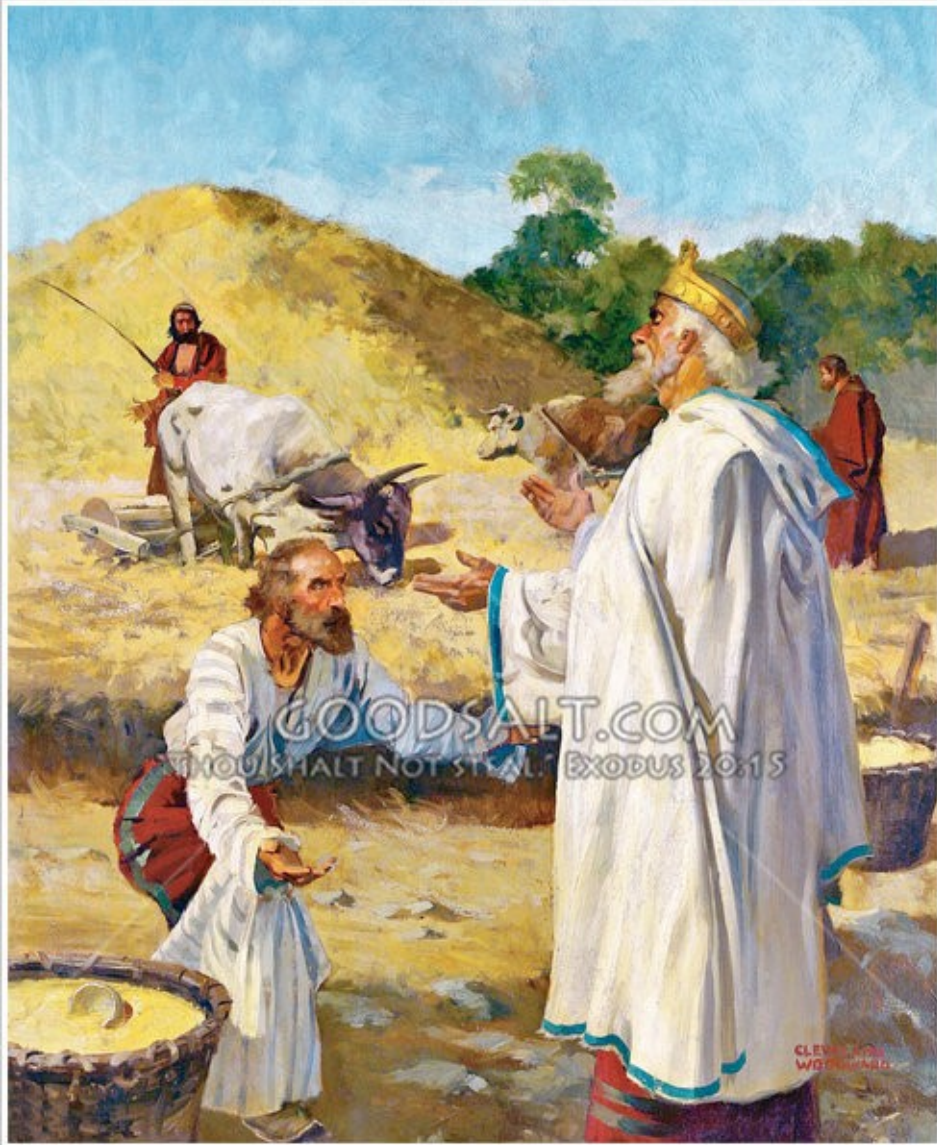
When David sinned– 4 sons died

70,000 persons died

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

“The guilt of numbering the people lay exclusively with David. But in the body politic as well as natural, when the head suffers, all the members suffer along with it....”

(13) God commanded David to build an altar at the threshing floor of Araunah.



(14) David purchased the threshing floor of Araunah. (2 Sam 24:18-25)

(14) Spiritual Lessons:

- (a) David was quick to obey God in establishing an altar at Araunah's threshing floor because this would restore David and stop the plague.

When God delivers us from punishment, we must likewise be quick to do that which God requires us to do to make amends for our wrong-doing.

These include:

- (i) repent of our sins
- (ii) Never to repeat our sins
- (iii) Other requirements of God

(15) David did not take advantage of Araunah's offer

Araunah, a Jebusite (not a Jew), offered free of charge to David:

(a) The threshing floor

(b) Oxen for burnt offering

(c) Tools and ox yokes for wood to build a fire on the altar.

Araunah then said to David, "The Lord thy God accept thee." (2 Sam 24: 23), because Araunah was not a Jew and not a follower of the Lord God.

But, he was willing to give all these properties to his king.

David was not willing to take advantage of the free offer.

David said to Araunah:

“...I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. “
(2 Sam 24:24)

(16) Spiritual Lessons:

If God requires us to do a task as part of delivering us from our punishment, we do it willingly as part of the cost for delivering us.

The cost will remind us that there is a cost to repay for our sin. We will not take sin lightly again.

Reflect:

(1) What are we proud of in our heart? How do we avoid this subtle pride?

Questions from the class.