

2 Samuel 24 shape and keywords

Again the anger of **YHWH** was kindled against Israel, and he incited **David** against them, saying, "Go, count the people of Israel and Judah."

So the **king** said to **Joab and the commanders of the army**, who were with him, "Go through all the tribes of **Israel**, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and take **a census of the people**, so that I may know how many there are."

But Joab said to the **king**, "May **YHWH** your God increase the number of the people a **hundred-fold**, while the eyes of my lord the **king** can still see it! But why does my lord the **king** want to do this?"

But the **king's** word prevailed against **Joab and the commanders of the army**. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the face of the **king** to take **a census of the people of Israel**.

They crossed the Jordan and began from Aroer and from the city that is in the middle of the valley, toward **Gad** and on to Jazer. Then they came to Gilead, and to Kadesh in the land of the Hittites; and they came to Dan, and from Dan they went around to Sidon, and came to the fortress of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites; and they went out to the Negeb of Judah at Beer-sheba. So when they had gone through all the land, they came back to Jerusalem at the end of **nine months and twenty days**. Joab gave to the **king** the number of those who had been counted: in Israel there were **eight hundred thousand soldiers** able to draw the sword, and those of Judah were **five hundred thousand**.

But afterward, **David** was hit in heart because he had numbered the people. **David said to YHWH, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done**. But now, O **YHWH**, please, pass over the guilt of your servant; for **I have done very foolishly.**"

When **David** rose in the morning, the word of **YHWH** came to the prophet **Gad**, **David's** seer, saying, "Go and say to **David**: Thus says **YHWH**: **Three** things I offer you; choose one of them, and I will do it to you." So **Gad** came to **David** and told him; he asked him, "Shall **three** years of famine come to you on your land? Or will you flee **three** months in the face of your adversaries [*tser*] while they pursue you? Or shall there be **three** days' pestilence [*dever*] in your land? Now know and see what word [*davar*] I shall return to the one who sent me." Then **David** said to **Gad**, "I am in great distress [*tsar*]; let us fall, please, into the **hand** of **YHWH**, for his compassion, yes, compassion is great [*rav*]; but let me not fall into human **hands**." So **YHWH** sent a pestilence on Israel from that morning until the appointed time; and **seventy thousand** of the people died, from Dan to Beer-sheba.

But when the **angel** stretched out his **hand** toward Jerusalem to destroy it, **YHWH** regretted concerning the evil and said to the **angel** who was bringing destruction among the people, "It is enough [*rav*]; now stay your **hand**." The **angel** of **YHWH** was then by the threshing floor of **Araunah** the Jebusite. When **David** saw the **angel** who was destroying the people, **he said to YHWH, "Behold, I alone have sinned, and I alone have done wickedly;** but these sheep, what have they done? Let your **hand**, please, be against me and against my father's house."

That day **Gad** came to **David** and said to him, "Go up and **erect an altar to YHWH** on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." Following **Gad's** words, **David** went up, as **YHWH** had commanded. When **Araunah** looked down, he saw the **king** and his servants passing through toward him; and **Araunah** went out and prostrated himself before the **king** with his nose to the ground. **Araunah** said, "Why has my lord the **king** come to his servant?" **David** said, "**To buy the threshing floor** from you in order to build an altar to **YHWH**, **so that the plague may be averted** [*tsr*] from the people."

Then **Araunah** said to **David**, "Let my lord the **king** take and offer up what seems good in your eyes, yes eyes; here are the oxen for the burnt offering, and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O **king**, **Araunah** gives to the **king**." And **Araunah** said to the **king**, "May **YHWH** your God respond favorably to you."

But the **king** said to **Araunah**, "No, but I will buy, yes, buy them from you for a price; I will not offer burnt offerings to **YHWH** my God that cost me nothing." **So David bought the threshing floor** and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. **David built there an altar to YHWH** and offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being. So **YHWH** answered his supplication for the land, and **the plague was averted** [*tsr*] from Israel.