

Issues in 2 Samuel 24 that call for a new interpretation

1. Why is YHWH angry at “Israel” (v. 1)?
2. Why would YHWH “incite” David to call for a census (v. 1)?
3. Why does Joab object to the census (v. 3)?
4. What argument does David make for why he will call the census (v. 4)?
5. Why does the census path focus on cities beyond the tribal regions (vv. 5-7)?
6. Why is David suddenly “hit in the heart” about “numbering” the people (v. 10)?
7. Why does YHWH respond to David indirectly through the prophet Gad, rather than directly to David (vv. 11-12)?
8. Why does Gad’s offer of three choices not mention anything about YHWH’s anger or the census as the reason for the offer (vv. 12-13)?
9. Why these three choices: famine, pursuit by foes, or pestilence (v. 13)?
10. Why the sudden appearance of the destroying angel (v. 16)?
11. Why would the angel be prepared to destroy Jerusalem if the punishment was three days of pestilence (v. 16)?
12. Why does the angel seem to stop (or hover) over the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite (v. 16)?
13. Why does YHWH “regret” the “evil” of the impending destruction (v. 16)?
14. Why does David call for the consequences to fall on “my father’s house” (v. 17)?
15. Why does Gad (YHWH?) order David to erect an altar on the threshing floor (v. 18)? What does that have to do with the preceding scene (cf. 21.10-14)?
16. Why the shift from “pestilence” (vv. 13, 15, *dever*) to “plague” (*maggafah*, vv. 21, 25)?
17. Why does David explain to Araunah the reason for wanting to buy the threshing floor as to “avert” the “plague” which has already taken place and which YHWH seemingly had already stopped (vv. 16, 21)?
18. Why the threshing floor of a Jebusite in particular, the previous residents of Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5.6-7), whom David attacked to take the city?
19. Why the purchase controversy clearly echoing Genesis 23.15-16?
20. Why does the scene end by saying that David’s altar and offerings caused YHWH to “be supplicated,” exactly at 21.14?