



Life of

DAVID

The Making of a King

The Judgement of God

1 Chronicles 21

Lesson 21

Background Information

Though God had established David as the rightful king, Absalom's rebellion had stirred up tension in the hearts of Israel. Even as the people moved to bring their king back, jealous rumblings moved among Israel's leaders bringing with it a new threat to David's crown. Joab assumed command and put an end to the uprising.

All was not at peace in the kingdom. Famine broke out as God's judgment for a broken promise and the cruel treatment against the Gibeonites. Though Saul had been the one to break the promise, David was compelled to make it right. God's justice would be served.

David's final years were spent mostly within the city wall, he no longer went in out for battle, but there were still personal battles to be dealt with. Once again, his failure to keep his eyes on God led Israel into a devastating national crisis. Though satan is the one who moved David's heart to number the people, we must recognize that he cannot exercise his evil intentions apart from the permission of God. (1 Kings 22:19-23). God could use him to accomplish His own purpose of judgment or discipline as in David's case.

Treasures of the Heart

*A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;
He rages against all wise judgment.*

Proverbs 18:1



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Chronicles 21:1-8

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 the Lord make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does 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. 7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel. 8 So David said to 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."

1 Chronicles 21:9-17

9 Then the Lord spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, **10** "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says 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 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 the Lord — the plague in the land, with the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

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

14 So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. **15** And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, 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 the Lord stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

16 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of 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 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 Lord my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."



A series of horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 20 evenly spaced lines extending across the width of the page.

1 Chronicles 21:26-30

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

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

28 At that time, when David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. 29 For the tabernacle of 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 God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the Lord.





What does it mean?

What lesson can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Chronicles 21:1-8 _____

1 Chronicles 21:9-17 _____

1 Chronicles 21:18-25 _____

1 Chronicles 21:26-30 _____



How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Chronicles 21:1-8 _____

1 Chronicles 21:9-17 _____

1 Chronicles 21:18-25 _____

1 Chronicles 21:26-30 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Understanding the Heart . . .

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

The Heart of David:

The Heart of the people:

The Heart of God:

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Chronicles 21:1-8 _____

1 Chronicles 21:9-17 _____

1 Chronicles 21:18-25 _____

1 Chronicles 21:26-30 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But he who heeds counsel is wise. Prov 12:15

