

SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

Lessons In Faith





II SAMUEL





David's Sin In Numbering The People



THE LAST CHAPTER OF 2 SAMUEL

AND THE END OF THE LIFE OF DAVID

The **last words** of David were good, but in this chapter we read of some of his **last works** which were not his best, yet he repented and so finished well.



2 Samuel 24

¹And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, **Go, number Israel and Judah.**

²For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and

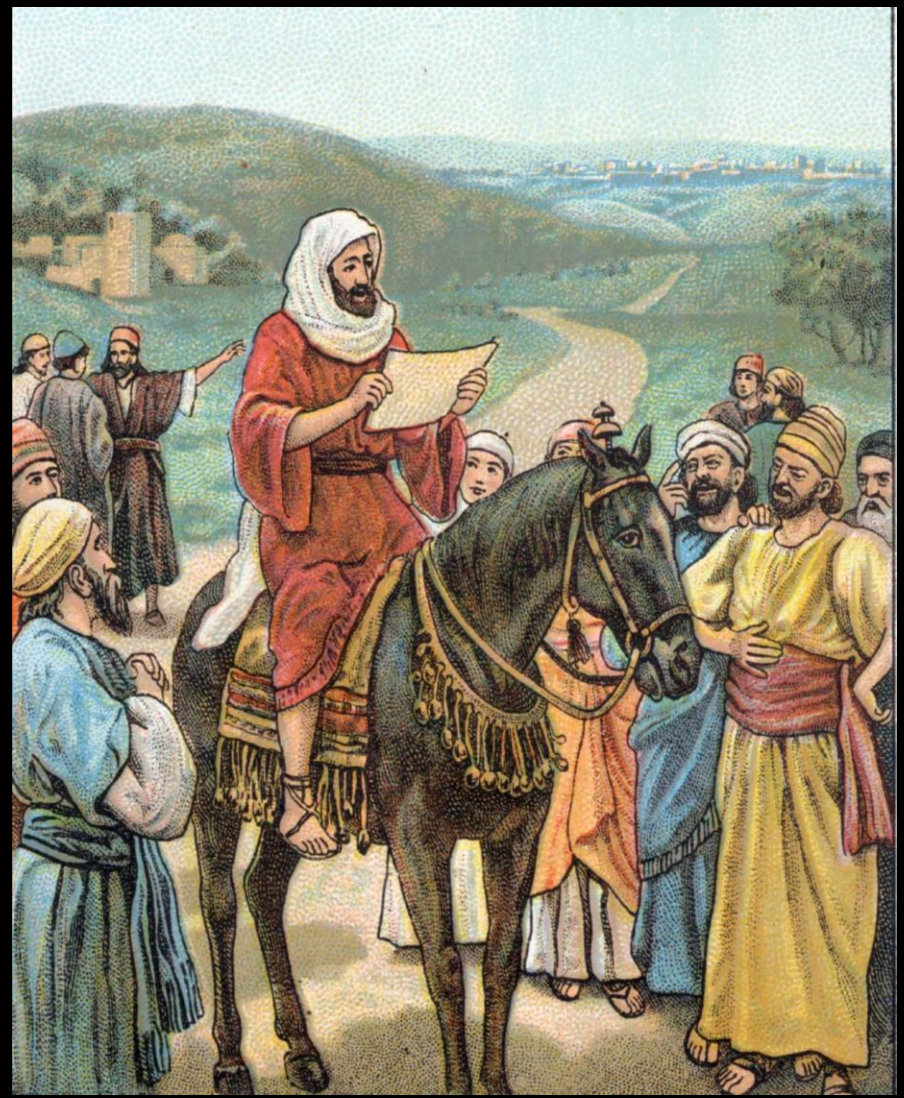
2 Samuel 24

number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.”



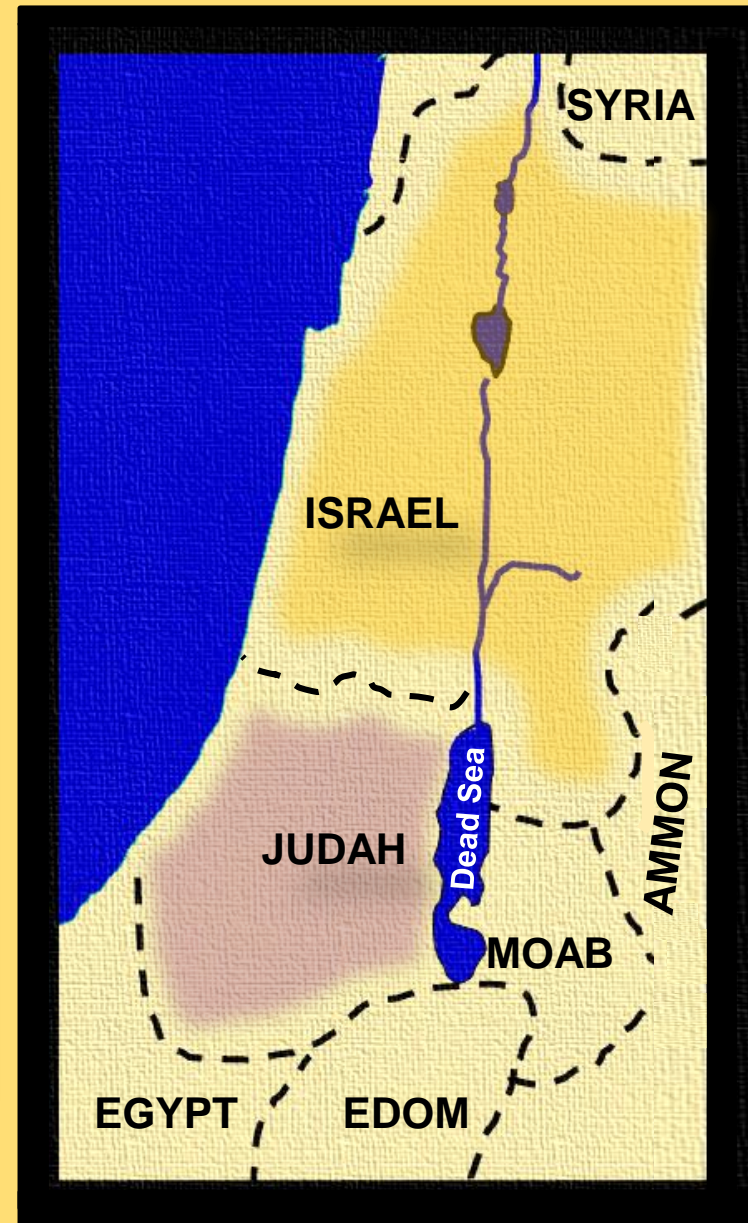
Joab questioned David's order to number the people.

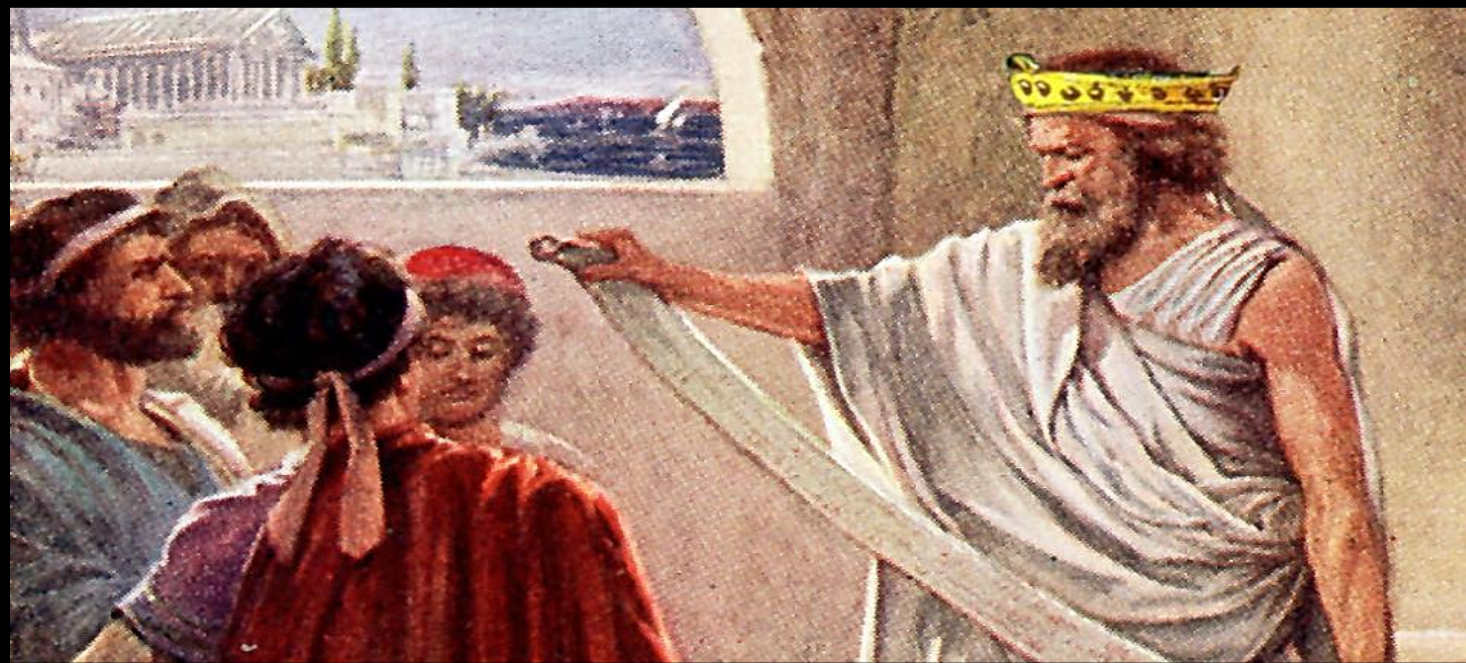
But, the king's word prevailed and Joab obeyed the king though with some reluctance. They began in the most distant places to number, and the total was, at length, brought to the king at Jerusalem.



**It took 9 months and 20
days to number the
people . . .**

800,000	Men of Israel
<u>500,000</u>	<u>Men of Judah</u>
1,300,000	Total Count





2 Samuel 24

“¹⁰And David’s heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.”

Why was numbering the people sinful?

Moses numbered the people twice, and it was not considered a transgression. Should not the shepherd know the number of his sheep?

Answer:

It is certain that it was a sin, and a great sin; but where the evil of it lay is not specifically indicated.

Some think the fault was that he numbered those that were under twenty years old, and that it was illegal, 1 Chronicles 27:23-24.

Others think the fault was that he did not require the half-shekel which was to be paid for the service of the sanctuary whenever the people were numbered as a ransom for their souls, Exodus 30:12.

Some say that it was an affront to God, because he was to trust in God and not in the number of people. Though the text says *God told* David to number the people notice he was angry when he told him.

Why did God move David to number the people?

FIRST OF ALL it is not strange that God was angry against Israel. There was cause enough for it. They were unthankful for the blessings of David's government, and they had taken part in Absalom's deceit and then that of Sheba.

SECONDLY NOTICE the answer to the question, "Why?" is not in the text. Be assured, God is not the author of sin (Habakkuk 1:13). Satan, as an enemy, puts temptation before men. God, as righteous Judge, permits it with a design.

FINALLY

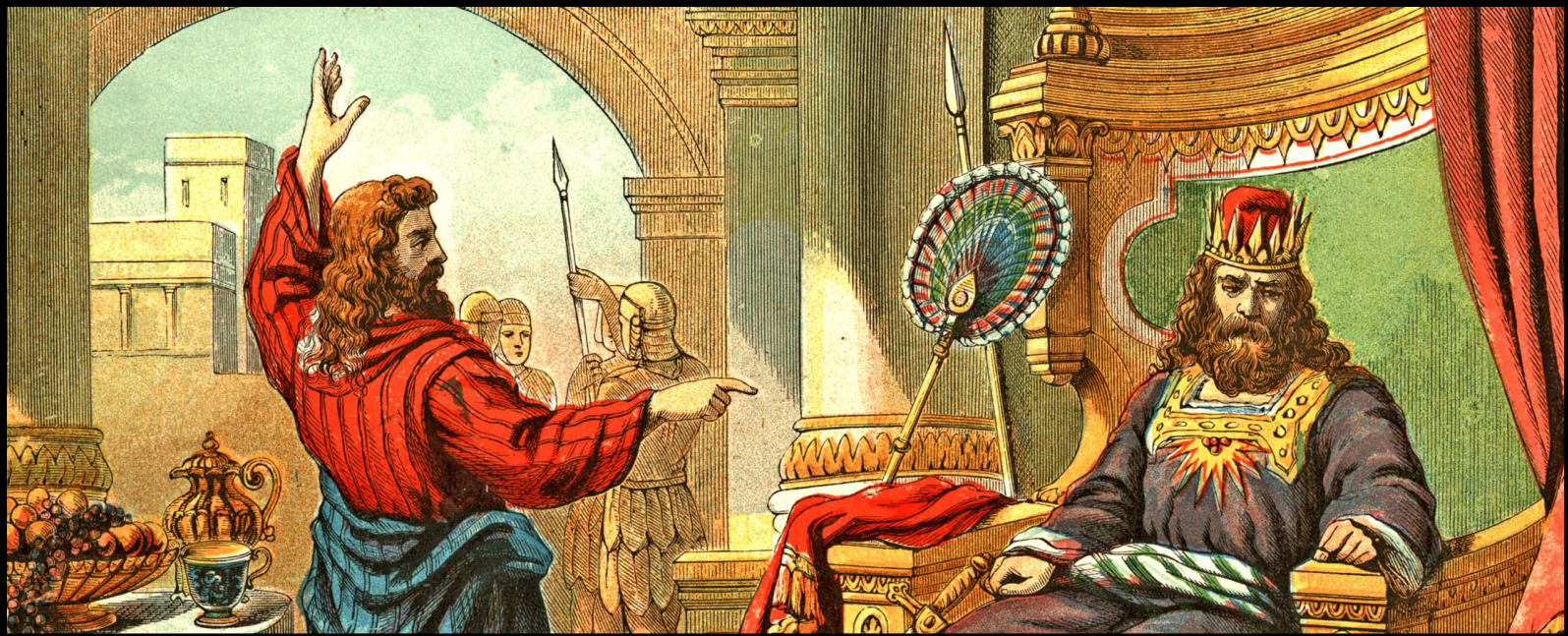
Many things not in themselves sinful turn into sin by our inordinately delighting in them. Vanity may have been the underlying sin in David's numbering the people.

David's reaction to the total—

Whether the numbers answered David's expectation or not we are not told, and we are not told whether the account fed his pride or mortified it.

The people were very many, but, it may be, not so many as he thought they were. They had not increased in Canaan as they had in Egypt nor were much more than double to what they were when they came into Canaan under Joshua, about 400 years before.





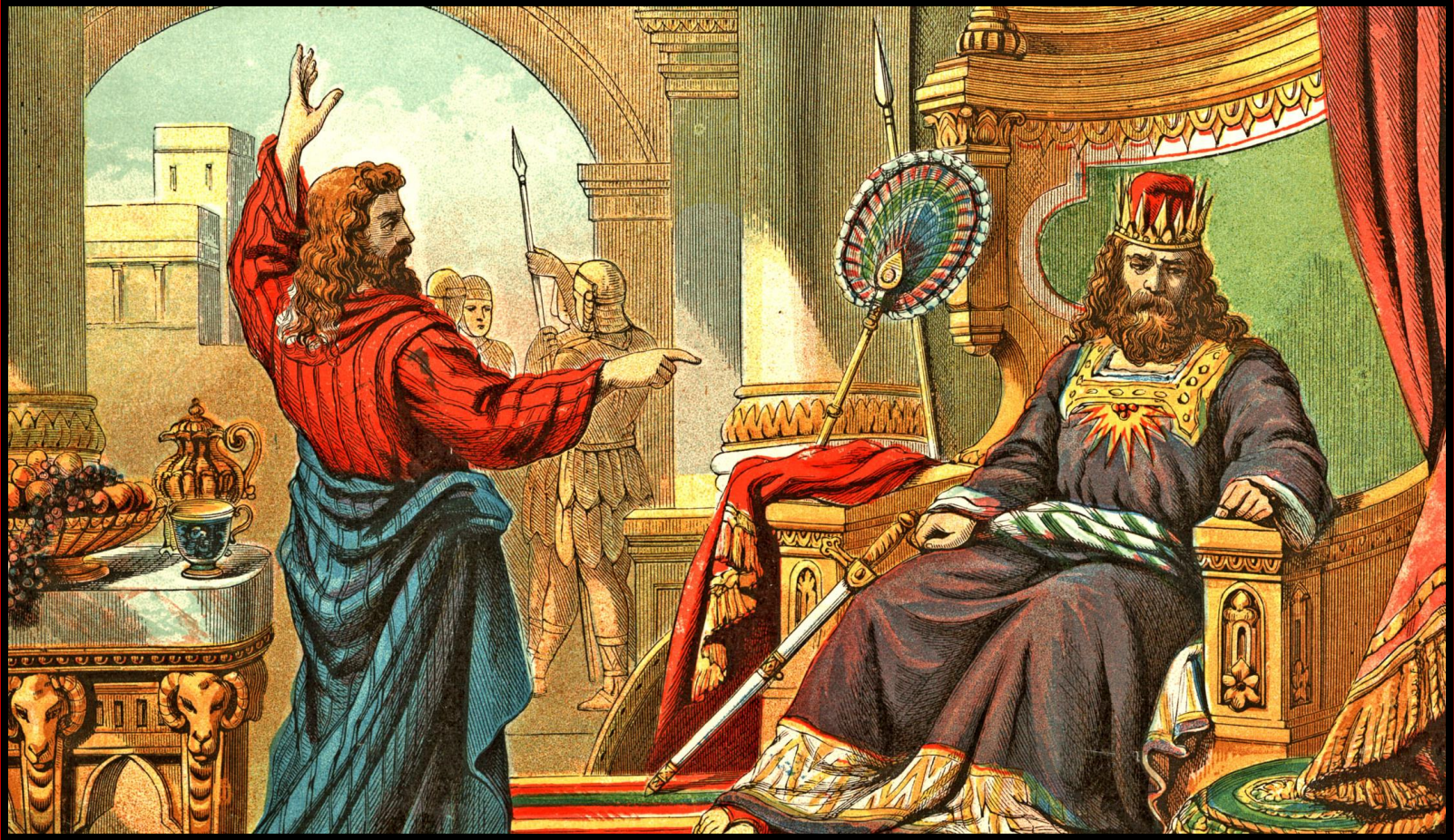
2 Samuel 24 **David's Punishment for Numbering the People**

“¹¹For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹²Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

¹³So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him,

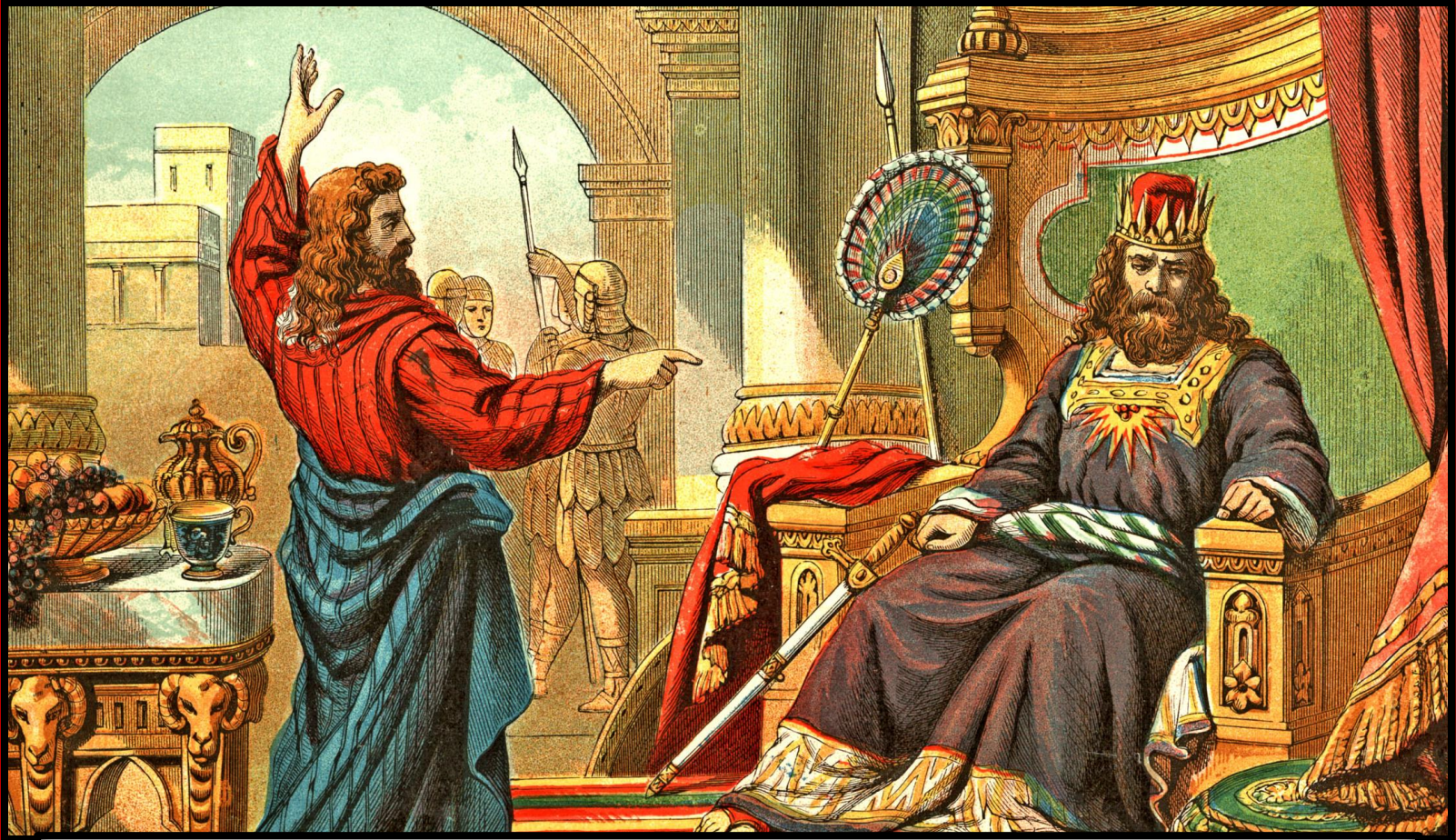
Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.”



2 Samuel 24

“¹⁴And David said unto Gad,

I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.”



DAVID LEFT THE CHOICE UP TO GOD

1. 7 years of famine.
2. 3 months being pursued by their enemies.
3. 3 days of pestilence in the land.

2 Samuel 24

“¹⁵So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. ¹⁶And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.”



2 Samuel 24

“¹⁷And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.”



2 Samuel 24

“¹⁸And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.
¹⁹And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.”





2 Samuel 24

“²⁰And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. ²¹And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.”

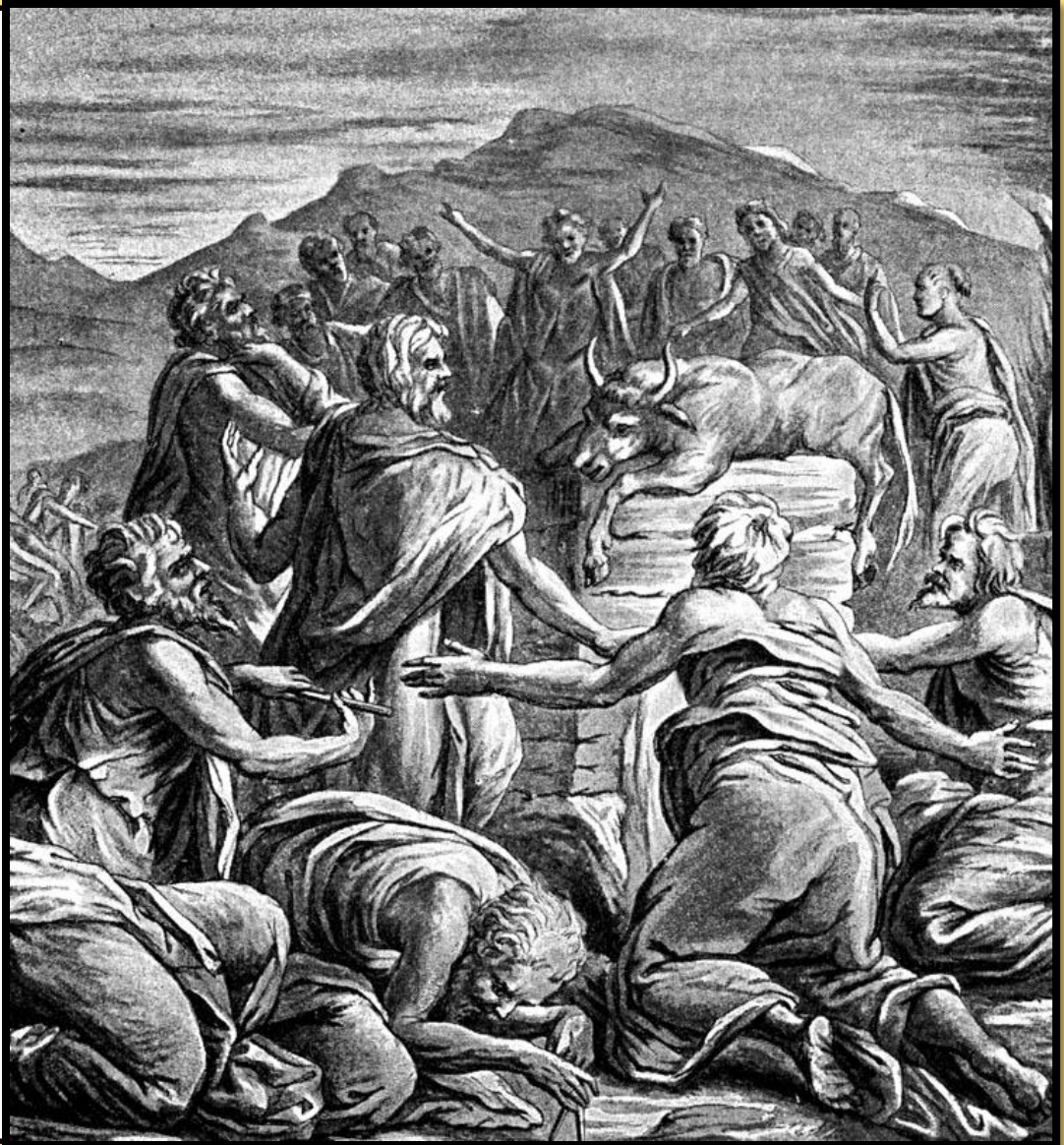


2 Samuel 24

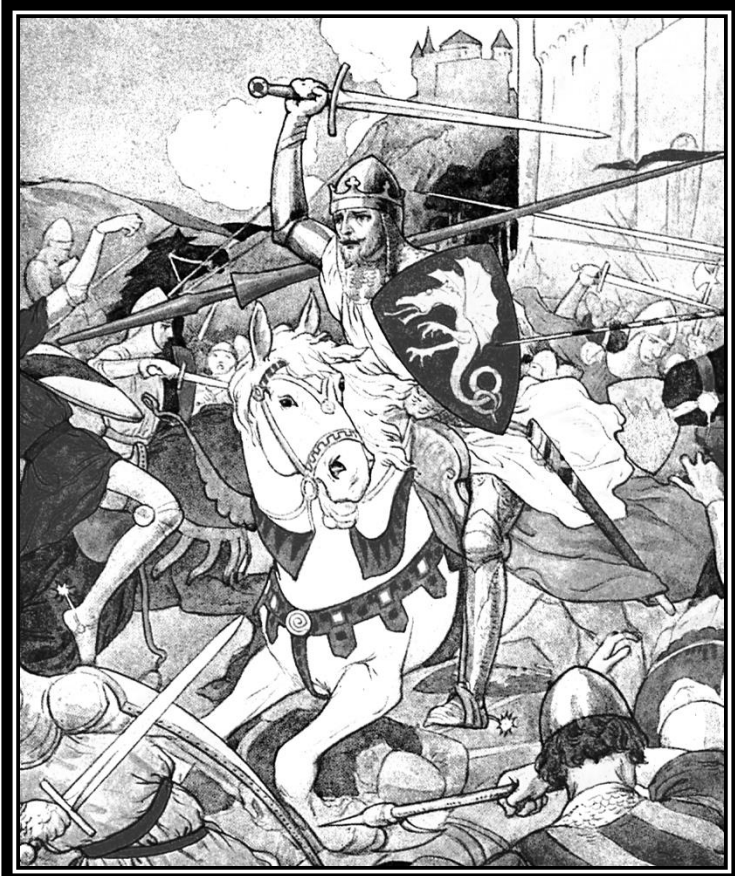
“²²And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. ²³All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.”

2 Samuel 24

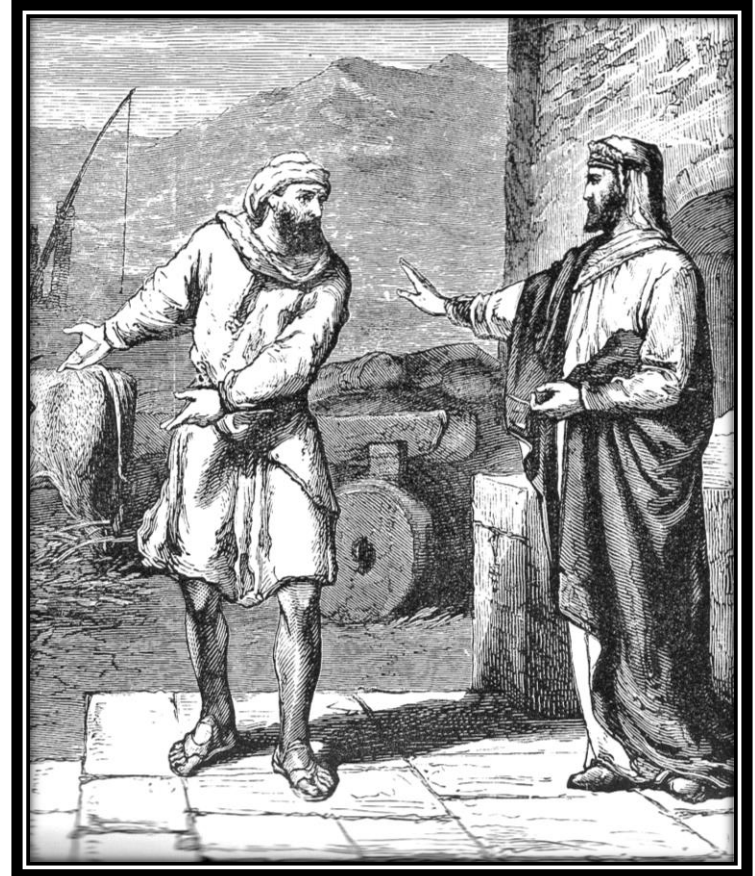
“²⁴And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. ²⁵And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.”



In II Samuel 23
David's Mighty Men
showed their devotion to God
with their courage and sacrifice.



In II Samuel 24
David's repentance
showed sincerity when
he refused to give that which
cost him nothing.



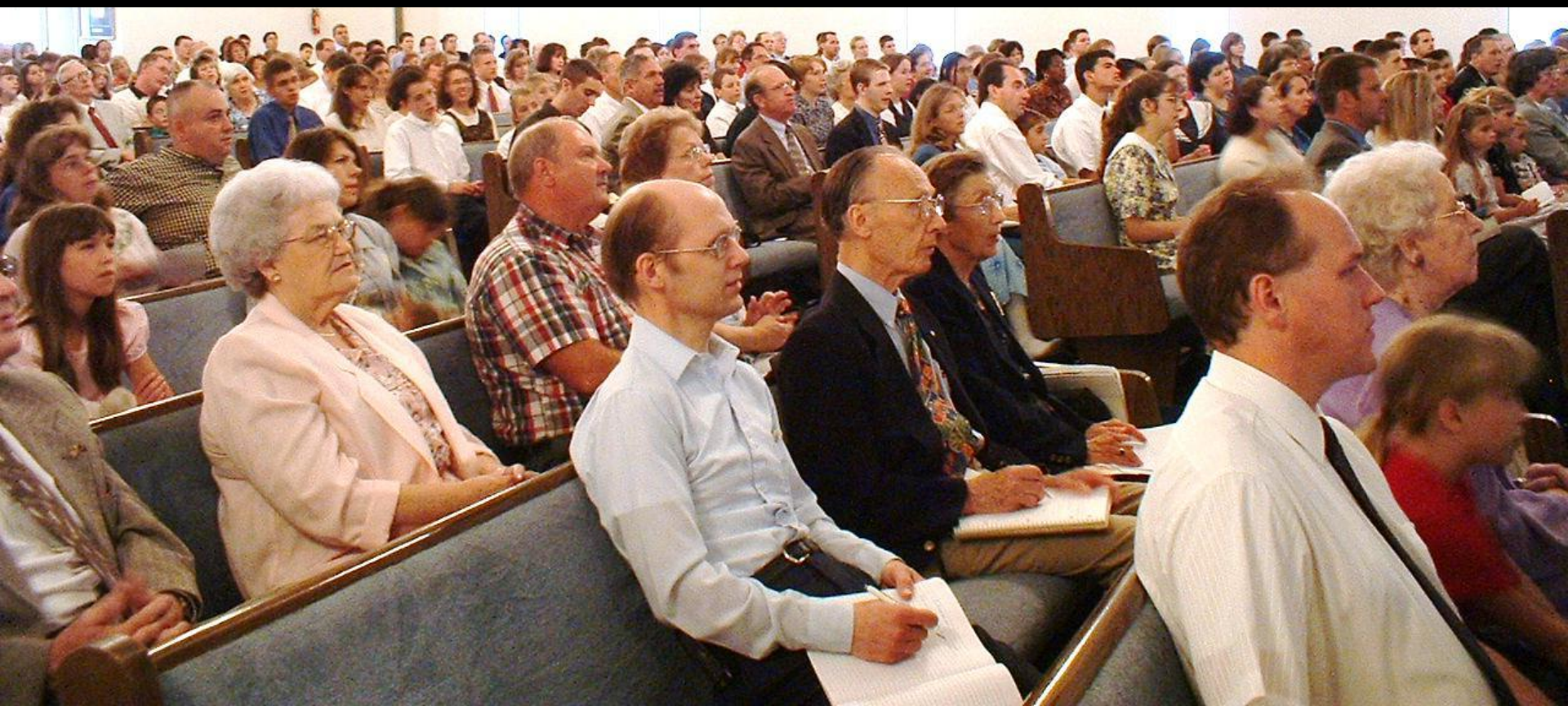
WHAT ABOUT YOUR GIVING?

What about your devotion?

What about your courage?

What about your sacrifice?

Do you give to God that which costs you nothing?



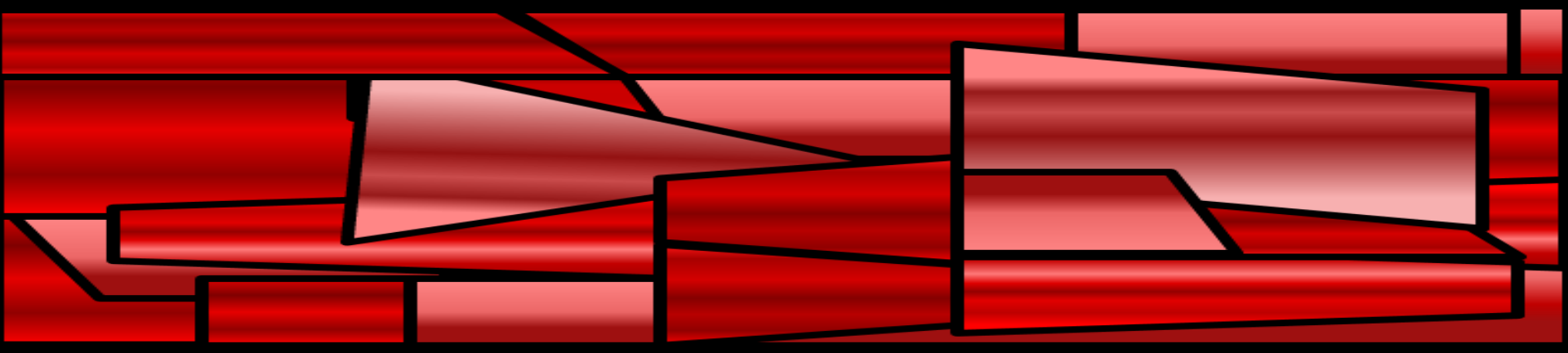
OUTLINES OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL

OUTLINE OF 1 SAMUEL

- I. Samuel as Judge (1-8).
- II. Samuel anoints Saul as King (9-15).
- III. Samuel anoints David as King (16-17).
- IV. David Succeeds Saul as King (18-31).

OUTLINE OF 2 SAMUEL

- I. The Transitions Of David (1-5).
- II. The Triumphs Of David (6-10).
- III. The Transgressions Of David (11).
- IV. The Troubles Of David (12-24).



THE END

