

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
04/06/2025

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

SUNDAY SCHOOL **Section Review**

COSTLY SACRIFICES

Special Offerings and the Sanctuary

I, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah

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COSTLY SACRIFICES

Special Offerings and the Sanctuary

David's Sacrifice

1 Chronicles 21:14 – 30

Background

- Today's lesson comes considering King David's many military victories covered in **1 Chronicles 18 – 20**
- At the beginning of chapter 21, David orders a census to be done by Joab – his military commander

Background

- This request troubled Joab and asked David why he chose to do this, which may cause Israel to sin (v.3)
- Nevertheless, he obeys David and gathers the census – except for the Levites and Benjamin (v.6)

Background

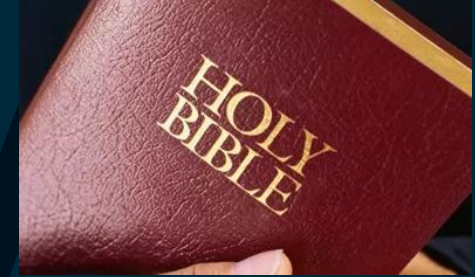
- **2 Samuel 24** parallels the same event. That book reports that the census took 9 months, 20 days to complete (**2 Samuel 24:8**)
- Joab reported 1.1 million warriors – 470,000 were in Judah

Background

- God was in fact displeased by the census and punished Israel for it as Joab predicted (v.7)
- David became conscious of his sin and asked for God's forgiveness (v.8)

Background

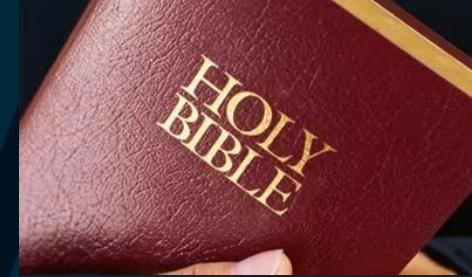
- God, through the prophet Gad gave David 3 choices as punishment (v.9 – 12):
 - 3 years of famine
 - 3 months of destruction by sword of enemies
 - 3 days of severe plague by an angel
- David chose the last option (v. 13)



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:14 – 15a (NKJV)

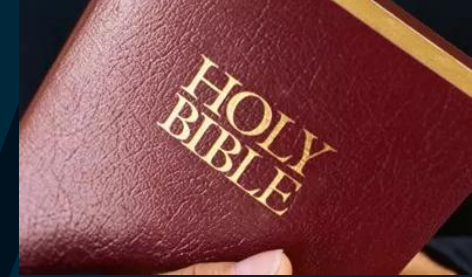
¹⁴ So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. ¹⁵ And God sent [^a]an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:15b (NKJV)

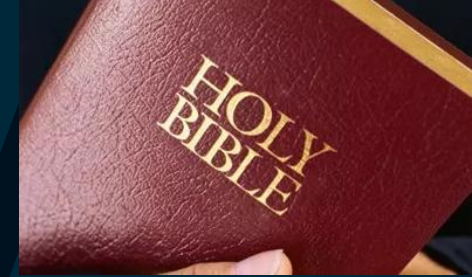
¹⁵ As [^b]he was destroying, the Lord looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain [^c]your hand." And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of [^d]Ornan the Jebusite.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:16 (NKJV)

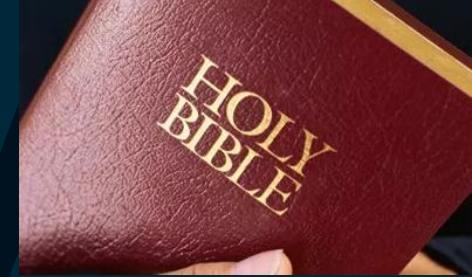
¹⁶ Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:17a (NKJV)

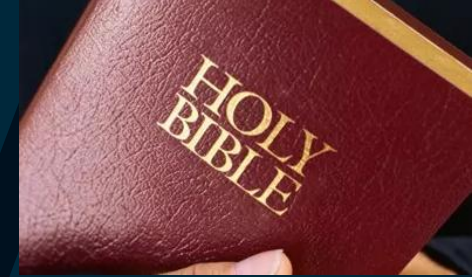
¹⁷ And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done?"



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:17b (NKJV)

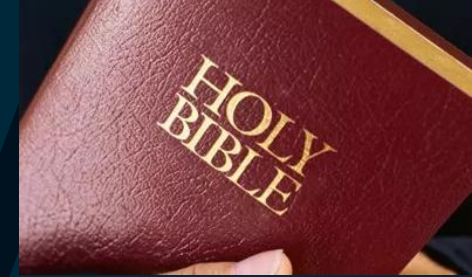
¹⁷ Let Your hand, I pray, O Lord my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:18 (NKJV)

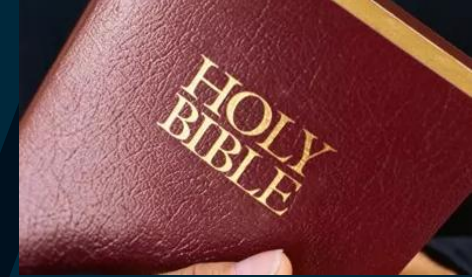
¹⁸ Therefore, the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:19 – 20 (NKJV)

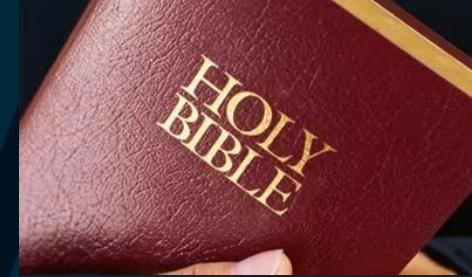
¹⁹ So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the Lord. ²⁰ Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:21 (NKJV)

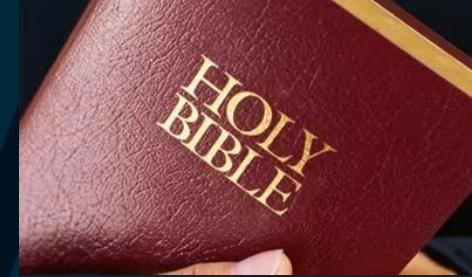
21 So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:22 (NKJV)

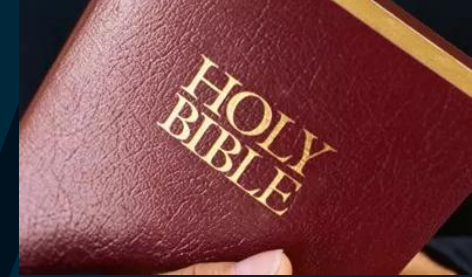
22 Then David said to Ornan, [e]“Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the Lord. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.”



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:23 (NKJV)

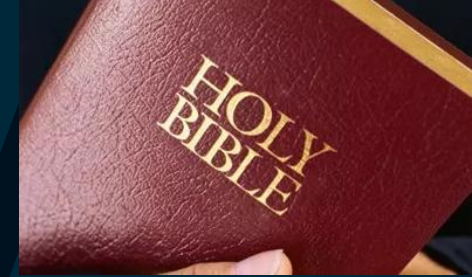
²³ But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:24 (NKJV)

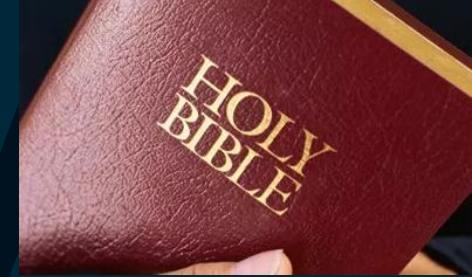
²⁴ Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:25 (NKJV)

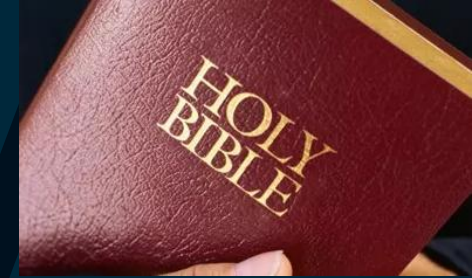
²⁵ So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:26 (NKJV)

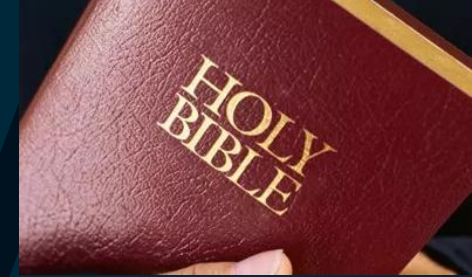
²⁶ And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the Lord; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:27 – 28 (NKJV)

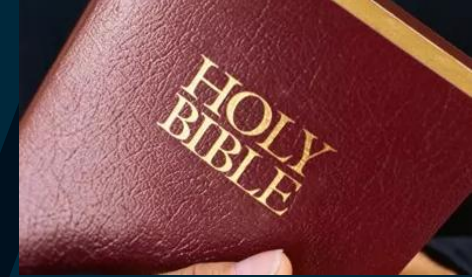
²⁷ So the Lord commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath. ²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:29 (NKJV)

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.



Lesson Text

1 Chronicles 21:30 (NKJV)

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.

Commentary: God or Satan?

- In **2 Samuel 24**, it reports that God ordered the census
- In **1 Chronicles 21**, it reports that Satan ordered the census
- Both are true, but for different reasons

Commentary: God or Satan?

- Satan's plan was to destroy David and Israel
- God's plan was to use this to humble David and Israel
- This similar scenario could be found with both Job and Jesus
- Satan only does what God allows

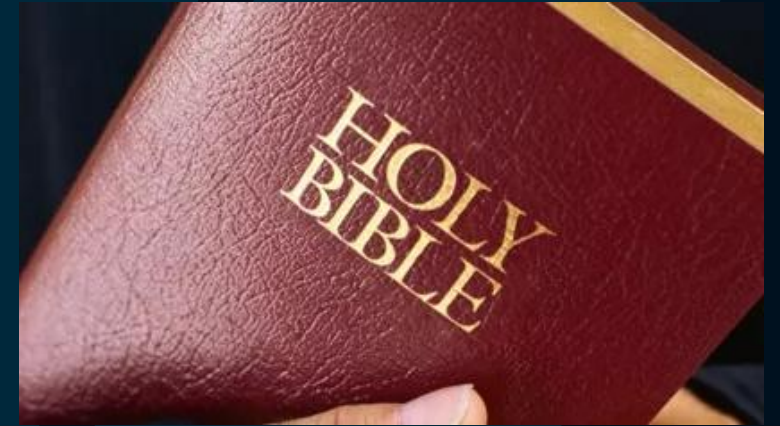
Commentary: Why David Sinned?

- Throughout David's life, God showed him that he could do much with little. It didn't matter if David had 1 million men or 50 men; With God, he would always be successful
- With the census, he put his trust more in his men than in God

Commentary: Why David Sinned?

- While we may not be dealt with as harshly as David, we too will lose fellowship with God when we trust more in our resources and riches than in the One who gave us those things
- We must always be humble in God

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Scripture References

Judges 7

Gideon's 300 men

2 Samuel 23:8-39

David's mighty men

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
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Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN