

LESSON 10: DAVID'S LAST WORDS, HIS ACTS, AND HIS SIN

HOMEWORK

2nd Samuel: Chapters 23-24

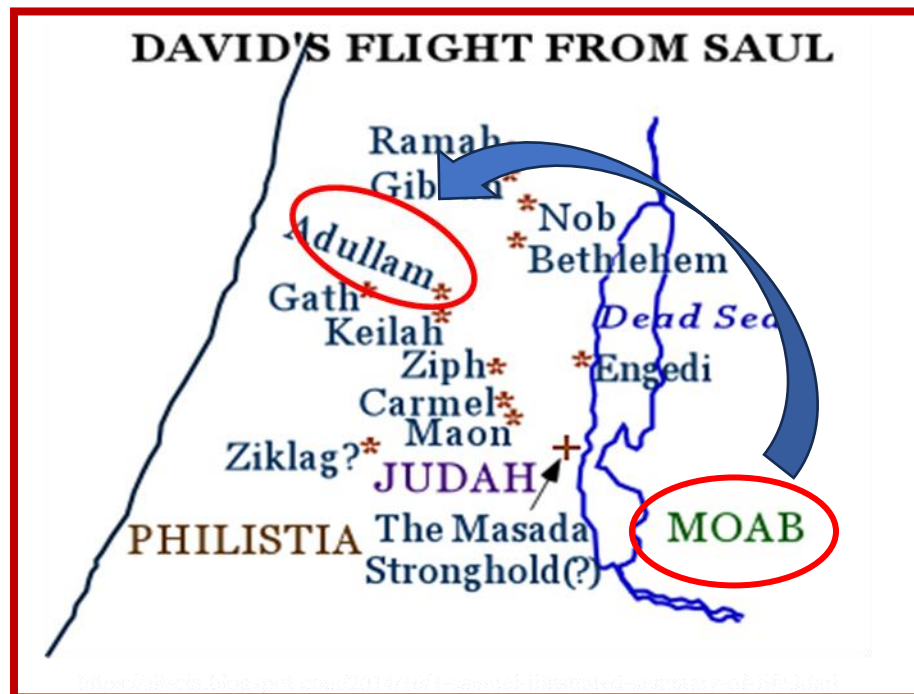
Directions: Use your Study Bible, the internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Read 2nd Samuel 23:1-7
 - Did David believe the Lord spoke through him?
 - Verse 5 states the Lord made an everlasting covenant with David. Does this coincide with 2nd Samuel 7:12-16?
 - Do verses 6-7 coincide with Isaiah 63:1-6 and Revelation 14:19-20?
2. Read 2nd Samuel 23:8-17 about the highest ranking of David's mighty men.
 - Count how many mighty men ranked in David's top group.
 - Name the ones in this top group?
 - What did each man do?
3. Read 2nd Samuel 23:18-39
 - Count how many mighty men ranked in David's second tier?
 - What did each man do?
 - Count how many mighty men ranked in David's third tier?
4. Read 2nd Samuel 24:1-25

David took a census:

 - What caused David to take a census (Read 1st Chronicles 21:1)?
 - How did Joab react to the census?
 - How long did it take for David to realize his sin?
5. David's punishment.
 - What choice of three punishments did God give David?
 - What punishment did David choose? Why?
 - Explain David's similar response in 2nd Samuel 24:17 to Moses' response in Exodus 32:32?

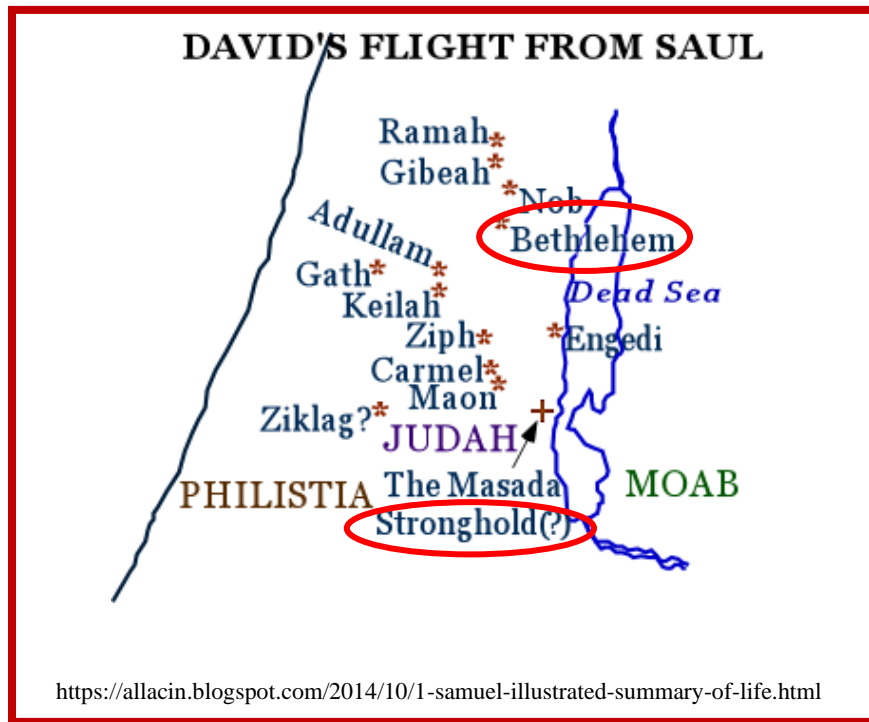
- Three categories make up this list. The first set included the first three **mightiest** men; the second set included two men under the first three; and the third set contained the thirty-two mighty men.
- Josheb-basshebeth (Adino the Eznite) killed 800 (300 in Chronicles) during one battle.
- **Eleazar** struck the Philistines after the Israelites had fled. He battled until his hand clung to the sword.
- Shammah stood his ground and struck the Philistines after the Israelites fled.
- Three of the thirty camped with David in the cave of Adullam when he fled from Saul (1 Samuel 22:1).



<https://allacin.blogspot.com/2014/10/1-samuel-illustrated-summary-of-life.html>

- David went to the **stronghold** after leaving his family in Moab (1st Samuel 22:4) while King Saul's army camped in Bethlehem, David's hometown.
- David craved a drink of water from the well by the gate of Bethlehem. The three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well, and took it to David.

- David considered the men's act as a supreme sacrifice and refused to drink the water. He poured it out before the Lord as a **drink** offering.



https://allacin.blogspot.com/2014/10/1-samuel-illustrated-summary-of-life.html

Vs. 18-23: David's Next Two Mighty Men

- **Abishai**, the brother of Joab, ranked as chief among the thirty. He killed 300 enemies in one battle.
- Benaiah killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day. Benaiah killed an impressive Egyptian who fought him with a spear while Benaiah only had a club. Benaiah, head over David's guard, snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him.

Vs. 24-39: David's Elite "Thirty Mighty Men"

- "Thirty" referred to an active group. The list contains 32 warriors.
- **Asahel**, the brother of Joab ranked among the thirty. Abner killed Asahel while Asahel ran after Abner.
- The rest of chapter 23 continues naming the list of mighty men.

CHAPTER 24: DAVID'S CENSUS AND THE PLAGUE

Vs. 1-25: David Sinned by Taking a Census of the People

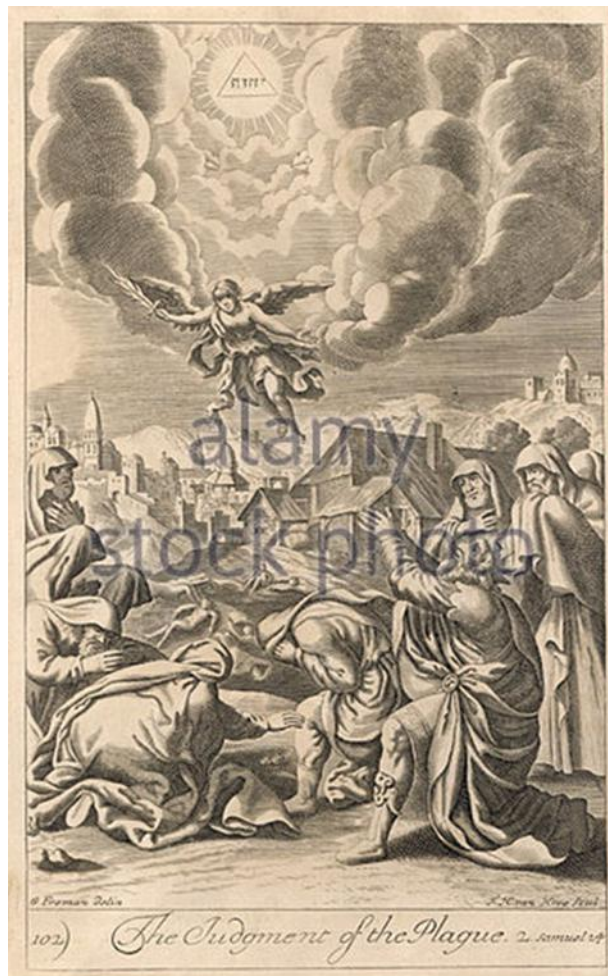
- 1st Chronicles 21:1 states that **Satan** stood up against Israel and encouraged David to number the people of Israel. Perhaps, David numbered the people due to his pride in Israel's numbers.
- David ordered Joab to go throughout Israel and number the people. Joab **admonished** David for doing this. Joab apparently recognized this act as a sin against the Lord.
- Joab stated the Lord could add a hundred times as many people without numbering them.



<http://focusmagazine.org/what-was-davids-sin-in-numbering-israel.php>

- David's word prevailed, so Joab and his commanders numbered the people.
- The numbering took **nine** months and twenty days.
- Joab's men counted 800,000 warriors in Israel and 500,000 warriors in Judah.
- About 10 months had passed until David recognized his sin. David **confessed** his sin to the Lord. We cannot hide or refuse to admit sin (Romans 1:18-21; 2:14-16).
- The Lord told the prophet, Gad, to speak to David.

- Gad told David the Lord offered him any one of three punishments for his sin.
 - Seven years of famine
 - Three months fleeing from his enemies
 - Three days of pestilence in the land.
- David chose the three days of **pestilence** rather than fall into the hands of man. David knew the Lord would show mercy.



www.alamy.com - A317M1

<http://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/pestilence.html>

- The pestilence caused 70,000 men to die.
- An angel of the Lord had prepared to strike Jerusalem and destroy it. The Lord relented from the calamity and told the angel not to carry out the judgment.

- David saw the angel standing by the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite.
- David **pleaded** on behalf of the people and asked the Lord to spare them and to strike him and his father's house instead. Moses gave a similar statement to God while interceding for the sake of Israel's sin in making the golden calf (Exodus 32:32).



<http://trivialdevotion.blogspot.com/2011/09/ornan-something-for-nothing.html>

- This intercession symbolized what Jesus would do on the cross by standing in for our sins.
- God told David to erect an **altar** to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

- When Araunah saw David and his servants coming toward him, he went down and asked why the King had come to his place.
- David said he wanted to buy the threshing floor to build an altar. Araunah did not want to sell the threshing floor but wanted to freely give the threshing floor to David. David refused the offer since he did not want to present an offering that did not cost him anything.
- David bought the threshing floor for **50** shekels of silver.
- David built an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
- The Lord, moved by prayer for the land, stopped the plague.

SUMMARY

Psalm 103:8 states, “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.” Both 1st and 2nd Samuel demonstrate God’s mercy and love. When the people of Israel sinned, God brought punishment to bring them back to Him. Whenever, they repented, God blessed them.

Christ’s death on the cross signified the ultimate sacrifice for sin. When a sinner turns to Christ and accepts His death on the cross as the forgiveness for sin, God looks upon that person as righteous. God forgives all past, present, and future sins. Nothing will ever separate them from the love of God. Romans 8:38-39 states, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Whenever we sin after salvation, we repent. Repentance means to “turn around”. In other words, we stop the sin, turn an about face, and do the opposite. Sometimes we may have to pay for our wrongdoings while on earth. However, in God’s sight, He has forgiven our sins in that they will never separate us from Him. After we repent, we turn to God and trust Him in all our ways.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2ND Samuel: Chapters 21-22

1. David acknowledged that the Spirit of the Lord spoke through him. Read the following Psalms and realize how the Spirit speaks directly to you.
 - A. Psalm 91:1
 - B. Psalm 100:3
 - C. Psalm 3:5-6
 - D. Psalm 5:11-12
2. David surrounded himself with mighty men.
 - A. Explain why we should surround ourselves with strong Christian believers?
 - B. Do you have strong Christian believers such as friends, family members, members of a Bible study, etc.
 - C. How does Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 apply to Christian friendship?
3. Has God talked to you during this study of 2nd Samuel? Explain.
4. Have you learned anything new from the study of 2nd Samuel? Explain.
5. What theme might you give to the book of 2nd Samuel? Explain.