

David's Choice

2 Samuel 24

1 Chronicles 21:1 – 22:1

Psalm 30

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

David commanded Joab, "Take a census of all the fighting men of Israel."

Joab was distressed, "Why do you want to do this? Your security is in the Lord not in how many troops you have."

But the king insisted. Joab grudgingly carried out the census and reported the number to David. The king finally understood his own lack of trust in the Lord. He prayed, "Please forgive my arrogance."

The Lord said, "I will give you a choice: three years of famine, three months of military defeats, or three days of plague."

David replied, "Don't let me fall into the hands of men. I will trust in your mercy."

God sent a plague. The angel of the Lord ravaged Israel, and thousands of people died. As the angel approached Jerusalem, the Lord said, "Enough!" The angel stopped at the threshing floor of a man named Araunah.

David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between heaven and earth with a drawn sword extended over Jerusalem. David cried out, "O Lord my God, I am the one who has sinned! Punish me, not your people."

The Lord told David to build an altar on the threshing floor. Araunah offered to give David his threshing floor and all that he would need to make offerings to the Lord.

David replied, "No, I will not make offerings to the Lord that have cost me nothing!" David bought the threshing floor, built an altar, and made sacrifices on it. He prayed, "Lord, you have turned my grief into joy." The Lord sent fire from heaven to burn up the offerings on the altar.

Then David announced, "The Temple of the Lord will be built here on this threshing floor."