

David's Sin of Numbering His Military Forces

2 Samuel 24:1-15

King David wanted a count of his military men. His general, Joab, tried to dissuade him from this foolish act. Yet, David insisted on numbering his soldiers. Why would David see a need to determine his military strength when even as a young man, fighting Goliath, he knew that the battle was the LORD's (*1 Sam. 17:47*)? David knew that no king is saved by the multitude of an host (*Ps. 33:16*), and that it is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man (*Ps. 118:8*). Because of David's sin 70,000 men died, a staggering number. That is 12,000 more than the number of Americans who died in Vietnam. In his sin with Bathsheba, only one man died, Uriah.



Lessons to learn:

- 1) The decisions that are made by the leaders of God's people can have devastating consequences. Lives will be affected by the decisions that are made.
- 2) We need to listen to good counsel (*2 Sam. 24:3-4*).
- 3) Yesterday's faith will not help us today. David wonderfully trusted God in the past but for some reason did not trust Him on this occasion.
- 4) In 1 Chronicles 21:1 we are told that Satan provoked David to number Israel. We are in a spiritual battle, and we do not want to be a tool of Satan. David, a man after God's own heart, on this occasion fulfilled the desires of Satan (*1 Pet. 5:8-9*). David allowed himself to be used by the enemy.
- 5) When we sin, we need to do as David did and fully acknowledge our wrong (*2 Samuel 24:10*).
- 6) The greatest men of God can fall and act foolishly, even after years and decades of walking with God.

May we never forget Paul's warning: "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (*1 Cor. 10:12*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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