

David Numbers The People

2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21

Divine pestilence and punishment was poured out upon Israel because of her sin. Yet, God's tender mercy is also manifest in this tragic episode. In the end, David acquired the site upon which the Temple of Solomon would be built.

Verse 1

2 Samuel 24:1 ... 1 Now again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:1 ... 1 Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. (NASB95)

1) God's anger against Israel presupposed guilt. Perhaps it was because they willingly followed Absalom and Sheba in rebellion against the divinely established government of David. Other factors may also have been involved. Regardless, God moved David to perform an act that brought down his wrath upon the nation.

The parallel account in 1st Chronicles says, "Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel" (1 Chron. 21:1). The writer of 2nd Samuel recognized the overruling hand of God in these affairs, while the later historian focused on the stimulating effect of Satanic temptation. From a Biblical viewpoint, God is in control of all things. He does not and cannot encourage man to sin (James 1:13-15). However, God may use the temptations of Satan to accomplish his own ends (cf. Job). He can employ the actions of sinful men to accomplish a greater, more lofty cause (Gen. 45:4-8). He can harden the hearts of the rebellious (Exod. 8:15, 32; 9:12; 10:20; 2 Thess. 2:10-12). In this case, God allowed Satan to move in David's heart.

James 1:13-15 ... 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. (NASB95)

Genesis 45:4-8 ... 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 "Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 "For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. 8 "Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. (NASB95)

Exodus 8:15 ... 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. (NASB95)

Exodus 8:32 ... 32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go. (NASB95)

Exodus 9:12 ... 12 And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses. (NASB95)

Exodus 10:20 ... 20 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go. (NASB95)

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 ... 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. (NASB95)

David sinned by numbering the people of Israel. Usually taken for the purpose of taxation or conscription, David apparently ordered this census to assess Israel's strength. This act of vanity demonstrated the king's reliance upon military might. Israel's success upon the battlefield was never based upon the size of its army nor the superiority of its weapons, rather, victory was the result of their faith and fidelity (Deut. 17:14-17; 20:1-4; Ps. 20:6-9; Prov. 21:31; Isa. 31:1-3).

Deuteronomy 17:14-17 ... 14 "When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. 16 "Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the Lord has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' 17 "He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. (NASB95)

Deuteronomy 20:1-4 ... 1 "When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you. 2 "When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come near and speak to the people. 3 "He shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, 4 for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.' (NASB95)

Psalms 20:6-9 ... 6 Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand. 7 Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. 8 They have bowed down and fallen, But we have risen and stood upright. 9 Save, O Lord; May the King answer us in the day we call. (NASB95)

Proverbs 21:31 ... 31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory belongs to the Lord. (NASB95)

Isaiah 31:1-3 ... 1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! 2 Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity. 3 Now the Egyptians are men and not God, And their horses are flesh and not spirit; So the Lord will stretch out His hand, And he who helps will stumble And he who is helped will fall, And all of them will come to an end together. (NASB95)

Verse 2

2 Samuel 24:2 ... 2 The king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Go about now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and register the people, that I may know the number of the people." (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:2 ... 2 So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number." (NASB95)

2) From Dan to Beersheba. Traditionally, this referred to the entire land of Israel. David ordered a complete census of the whole nation.

Verse 3

2 Samuel 24:3 ... 3 But Joab said to the king, "Now may the Lord your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see; but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:3 ... 3 Joab said, "May the Lord add to His people a hundred times as many as they are! But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why does my lord seek this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt to Israel?" (NASB95)

3) Even Joab opposed the idea of numbering the children of Israel. Either he perceived David's inflated intentions, or he recognized this action offered no real benefit.

Verse 4

2 Samuel 24:4 ... 4 Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to register the people of Israel. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:4 ... 4 Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore, Joab departed and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. (NASB95)

4) Rejecting the counsel of his commanders, David pressed ahead with his plans (Prov. 11:14 ; 15:22 ; 24:6). Pride prevailed (Prov. 11:2; 16:18; 29:23).

Proverbs 11:14 ... 14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory. (NASB95)

Proverbs 15:22 ... 22 Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed. (NASB95)

Proverbs 24:6 ... 6 For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory. (NASB95)

Proverbs 11:2 ... 2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom. (NASB95)

Proverbs 16:18 ... 18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. (NASB95)

Proverbs 29:23 ... 23 A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor. (NASB95)

Verses 5-8

2 Samuel 24:5-8 ... 5 They crossed the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the city that is in the middle of the valley of Gad and toward Jazer. 6 Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi, and they came to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon, 7 and came to the fortress of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and of the Canaanites, and they went out to the south of Judah, to Beersheba. 8 So when they had gone about through the whole land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:4 ... 4 Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore, Joab departed and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. (NASB95)

5) These cities lay in the Transjordan.

6) These places lay in northern Israel.

7) The cities of the Hivites were located along the coastal plain between Tyre and Philistia.

8) The entire task took nine months.

Verse 9

2 Samuel 24:9 ... 9 And Joab gave the number of the registration of the people to the king; and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:5-6 ... 5 Joab gave the number of the census of all the people to David. And all Israel were 1,100,000 men who drew the sword; and Judah was 470,000 men who drew the sword. 6 But he did not number Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's command was abhorrent to Joab. (NASB95)

9) 800,000 Israelites & 500,000 from Judah. Thus the armies of David numbered 1.3 million men, not including the tribes of Levi and Benjamin.

David had an standing army of only 288,000 men (1 Chron. 27:1-15). However, in any country, the number of men enrolled in active service is always much smaller than the total number who are able to bear arms.

The numbers are larger in 1 Chronicles 21:5, where it says, "And all Israel were 1,100,000 men who drew the sword; and Judah was 470,000 men who drew the sword" (NASB). How do we reconcile this difference? "The 800,000 from Israel in 2 Samuel 24:9 may not have included the 300,000 listed in 1 Chronicles 27, which would make the total (as here) 1,100,000. The 470,000 in Judah may not have included the 30,000 of 2 Samuel 6:1, which would bring the total (as here) to 500,000. Or perhaps the Chronicles figure represents a round number."¹

Verse 10

2 Samuel 24:10 ... 10 Now David's heart troubled him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, please take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly." (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:7-8 ... 7 God was displeased with this thing, so He struck Israel. 8 David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly." (NASB95)

10) And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. The account in 1st Chronicles says that Israel began to suffer before David felt remorse. Temptation often blinds us. We become so absorbed in the pursuit of sin that we are heedless of its consequences, and only afterwards does our heart trouble us.

Verses 11-13

2 Samuel 24:11-13 ... 11 When David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 "Go and speak to David, 'Thus the Lord says, "I am offering you three things; choose for yourself one of them, which I will do to you." ' " 13 So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider and see what answer I shall return to Him who sent me." (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:9-12 ... 9 The Lord spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, 10 "Go and speak to David, saying, 'Thus says the Lord, "I offer you three things; choose for

yourself one of them, which I will do to you.” ’ ’ 11 So Gad came to David and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Take for yourself 12 either three years of famine, or three months to be swept away before your foes, while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of the sword of the Lord, even pestilence in the land, and the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.’ Now, therefore, consider what answer I shall return to Him who sent me.” (NASB95)

11-12) God offered unto David three choices of punishment.

13) Basically the Lord said, “Do you want your punishment slowly administered, or do you want to get it over quickly?” Each choice grew in severity, but with shorter duration. David had already faced two of these calamities. He had been a fugitive from Saul for years, and 2 Samuel 21 records that a three years famine that struck the land of Israel. He opts for three days of pestilence.

Seven years famine. According to 1 Chronicles 21:12 and the LXX, this should read “three years.”

Verse 14

2 Samuel 24:14 ... 14 Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man.” (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:13 ... 13 David said to Gad, “I am in great distress; please let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are very great. But do not let me fall into the hand of man.” (NASB95)

14) David recognized that his sin (and also that of Israel, cf. vs.1) incurred the wrath of God. Yet, the Lord is gracious toward all who repent. His anger is momentary; His mercy everlasting (Ps. 30:5; Isa. 54:7-8). David knew that he would consistently experience better treatment from God than from man.

Psalm 30:5 ... 5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning. (NASB95)

Isaiah 54:7-8 ... 7 “For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you. 8 “In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,” Says the Lord your Redeemer. (NASB95)

Verse 15

2 Samuel 24:15 ... 15 So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time, and seventy thousand men of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:14 ... 14 So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel; 70,000 men of Israel fell. (NASB95)

15) The consequences of sin often affect others. 70,000 Israelites died because of David's sin.

Verse 16

2 Samuel 24:16 ... 16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough! Now relax your hand!" And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:15 ... 15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy it, the Lord saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "It is enough; now relax your hand." And the angel of the Lord was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (NASB95)

16) Repentance describes a change of heart. Applied to man, it means that we change our mind toward sin and determine to walk in it no longer. When descriptive of the Lord, it means that He changed His mind toward mankind (Gen. 6:5-8). In this context, it expresses His mercy and sorrow. God recognized David's repentance, and as a result, relented in His judgment.

Genesis 6:5-8 ... 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (NASB95)

Angels were divinely employed for both punishment and deliverance. The visible appearance of the angel eliminated any thought that this was a natural plague.

Verse 17

2 Samuel 24:17 ... 17 Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking down the people, and said, "Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let Your hand be against me and against my father's house." (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:17 ... 17 David said to God, "Is it not I who commanded to count the people? Indeed, I am the one who has sinned and done very wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done? O Lord my God, please let Your hand be against me and my father's household, but not against Your people that they should be plagued." (NASB95)

17) The sin of numbering the people was David's alone. However, God operates on many levels at once. In the three-day pestilence, He not only punished David's arrogance, but also took vengeance on Israel for their prior rebellion.

Verses 18-19

2 Samuel 24:18-19 ... 18 So Gad came to David that day and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” 19 David went up according to the word of Gad, just as the Lord had commanded. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:18-19 ... 18 Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 19 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he spoke in the name of the Lord. (NASB95)

18) The threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite; Ornan the Jebusite (1 Chron. 21:18). The Jebusites were the original inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem. Early in his reign David captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites, who were the original inhabitants of the city. Araunah’s threshing floor lay just north of David’s capital.

Jerusalem was built on two hills: Mt. Zion, located to the southwest, and Mt. Moriah, which lay to the northeast. The term “Zion” originally referred to the rock escarpment on the ridge between the Kidron and the Tyropeoean valleys of Jerusalem.ⁱⁱ Later the term was expanded to include the entire western ridge of early Jerusalem. Centuries afterwards it was applied to the entire city (Ps. 126:1; Isa. 1:26-27). By the fourth century the name of Zion was adapted to the southern portion of the western hill.ⁱⁱⁱ

Psalms 126:1 ... 1 Thanksgiving for Return from Captivity. A Song of Ascents. When the LORD brought back the captive ones of Zion, We were like those who dream. (NASB95)

Isaiah 1:26-27 ... 26 “Then I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning; After that you will be called the city of righteousness, A faithful city.” 27 Zion will be redeemed with justice And her repentant ones with righteousness. (NASB95)

This hill was also known as Mt. Moriah. The land of Moriah is named in Genesis as the place where Abraham went to offer up Isaac (Gen. 22:1-2). God tested the faith of Abraham by giving this command. When Abraham demonstrated his willingness to obey God, regardless of the cost or consequences, the Lord stayed his hand and spared the child. Many scholars believe that “the land of Moriah” is the same as “Mt. Moriah,” one of the hills of Jerusalem. Jews believe that the altar of burnt offerings in the Temple stood upon the very site of the altar which Abraham built to offer his son.

This place came to symbolize God’s gracious presence among his people. Here Israel saw both the terror and mercy of the Lord. It is appropriate that Solomon’s temple would later be erected at this site (1 Chron. 22:1; 2 Chron. 3:1).

Genesis 22:1-2 ... 1 The Offering of Isaac Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 22:1 ... 1 Then David said, "This is the house of the Lord God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel." (NASB95)

2 Chronicles 3:1 ... 1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (NASB95)

Verses 20-23

2 Samuel 24:20-23 ... 20 Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants crossing over toward him; and Araunah went out and bowed his face to the ground before the king. 21 Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be held back from the people." 22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what is good in his sight. Look, the oxen for the burnt offering, the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. 23 "Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the Lord your God accept you." (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:20-23 ... 20 Now Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons who were with him hid themselves. And Ornan was threshing wheat. 21 As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out from the threshing floor and prostrated himself before David with his face to the ground. 22 Then David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of this threshing floor, that I may build on it an altar to the Lord; for the full price you shall give it to me, that the plague may be restrained from the people." 23 Ornan said to David, "Take it for yourself; and let my lord the king do what is good in his sight. See, I will give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for wood and the wheat for the grain offering; I will give it all." (NASB95)

20-23) Araunah offered to give his threshing-floor to David. Note the generosity of this Gentile. Faith was not exclusive to the Jews; nor was sin restricted to the Gentiles.

Verses 24-25

2 Samuel 24:24-25 ... 24 However, the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Thus the Lord was moved by prayer for the land, and the plague was held back from Israel. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 21:24-27 ... 24 But 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, or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing." 25 So David gave Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site. 26 Then David built an altar to the Lord there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And he called to the Lord and He answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. 27 The Lord commanded the angel, and he put his sword back in its sheath. (NASB95)

David insisted on paying the full price for the land. He said, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord burnt offerings that cost me nothing." Araunah's offer and David's refusal are reminiscent of Abraham's encounter with the children of Heth (Genesis 23). Here is an important principle of sacrificial giving. Our contributions to the Lord must represent a sacrifice. A gift that does not cost us is no gift at all.

Many would cheat God of that which is rightfully his. In the days of Malachi, Israel robbed God in tithes and offerings (Mal. 1:6-14; 3:8-12). This problem has not gone away. Many today think they can reap God's blessings without corresponding personal effort. They want a religion that does not cost them anything. Churches today are filled with half-hearted Christians who have never counted the cost of commitment. Serving God demands our life, time, energies, income, in short – our all. Our responsibility to God comes first (Matt. 6:33; Luke 14:25-35).

Malachi 1:6-14 ... 6 " 'A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?' 7 "You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, 'How have we defiled You?' In that you say, 'The table of the Lord is to be despised.' 8 "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the Lord of hosts. 9 "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the Lord of hosts. 10 "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you. 11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts. 12 "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.' 13 "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the Lord of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the Lord. 14 "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the Lord of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations." (NASB95)

Malachi 3:8-12 ... 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. 11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts. 12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts. (NASB95)

Matthew 6:33 ... 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (NASB95)

Luke 14:25-35 ... 25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 "Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 "Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 "It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (NASB95)

David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. The parallel account says, "David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight" (1 Chron. 21:25). Apparently, David paid 600 shekels of gold for the whole property on which the Temple would later be built, while giving 50 shekels of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen.

1 Chronicles 21:25 ... 25 So David gave Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site. (NASB95)

David not only continued to offer sacrifices at the threshing floor of Araunah, he established it as the site upon which the temple would afterwards be built (1 Chron. 26:27; 27:1). The record of Chronicles goes on to record the account of the preparations which David made for the building of the temple (1 Chronicles 27:2ff).

1 Chronicles 26:27 ... 27 They dedicated part of the spoil won in battles to repair the house of the LORD. (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 27:1 ... 1 Commanders of the Army Now this is the enumeration of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' households, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division numbering 24,000: (NASB95)

1 Chronicles 27:2 ... 2 Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel had charge of the first division for the first month; and in his division were 24,000. (NASB95)

Postscript

1 Chronicles 21:28-30 ... 28 At that time, when David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifice there. 29 For the

tabernacle of the Lord, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering were in the high place at Gibeon at that time. 30 But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was terrified by the sword of the angel of the Lord. (NASB95)

i Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1978), p. 629.

ii The Kidron valley lay to the east; the valley on Hinnom lay to the south; and the Tyropeoan valley lay to the west of the old city of David.

iii *New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, s.v. "Zion."