### 1 Chronicles

## Chapter 21

1Well, the Slanderer came to IsraEl and [he] urged David to count his people.  
  
2So King David said to JoAb and his generals:  
  
 ‘Go and take a census of IsraEl from BeerSheba to Dan, then bring [the numbers] to me, so I’ll know how many men I have [in my army].’  
  
3And JoAb said:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah multiply His people 100 times!  
  
 ‘But the eyes of my lord the king can see all of his servants; so, why do you want to do this, my lord?  
  
 ‘Be careful that you don’t bring a sin upon IsraEl!’  
  
4However, the king just wouldn’t listen to JoAb... So, JoAb traveled throughout all IsraEl, and then he returned to JeruSalem and gave the numbers of the people to David:  
  
 • There were 1,100,000 men who could carry the sword.  
  
 • 5And among the sons of Judah there was an additional 470,000.  
  
6However, he didn’t count [the tribes of] Levi and BenJamin as being among them, because the king told JoAb not to do so.  
  
7Well, doing this was wicked [in the eyes of] God, so He struck IsraEl!  
  
8Then David said to God:  
  
 ‘I [was guilty of] a great sin when I did this thing!  
  
 ‘So, please forgive the evil of Your servant, for I’m the one who did this foolish thing.’  
  
9Then the Lord spoke to David’s Seer Gad, saying:  
  
 10‘Go speak to David and tell him that this is what Jehovah has said:  
  
 ‘I’ll give you a choice of three punishments.  
  
 ‘Choose which you prefer, and I’ll bring it upon you...’  
  
11So Gad went to David and told him:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah has said:  
  
 ‘Choose for yourself 12from these three:  
  
 • Three years of famine,  
 • Three months of destruction and fleeing from your enemies,  
 • Three days of death in the land, when the messenger of the Lord will go among all the inheritance of IsraEl and destroy.’  
  
 ‘Now, give me an answer for the One who sent me… Which do you choose?’  
  
13And David told Gad:  
  
 ‘Those are three very tough choices, so I’ll leave it in the hands of Jehovah, for He’s exceptionally compassionate.  
  
 ‘I don’t want to leave myself in the hands of men.’  
  
14So the Lord sent death throughout all IsraEl, and 70,000 of their males died.  
  
15Then God sent His messenger to JeruSalem to wipe it out also.  
  
But, as he was destroying it, the Lord saw what was happening and felt sorry for the evil. So He said to the messenger that was doing the destroying:  
  
 ‘That’s enough! Withdraw your hand!’  
  
Well, at the time, the messenger of Jehovah was standing at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite... 16And when David looked up and saw the messenger of Jehovah standing in that place between the sky and the ground with an unsheathed broadsword in his hand that was stretched out over JeruSalem, he fell to the ground and he had the elders put on sackcloth and cover their faces!  
  
17So then David called out to God, saying:  
  
 ‘Wasn’t I the one who told them to count the people?  
  
 ‘Yes, I’m the one who sinned and who told them to do this bad thing!  
  
 ‘What did these sheep do, O Jehovah God?  
  
 ‘Please bring Your hand and Your destruction against me and the house of my father instead, not against Your people, O Lord!’  
  
18Then the messenger of Jehovah said to Gad:  
  
 ‘Tell David that he must build an Altar to Jehovah there at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.’  
  
19So David thereafter went and did what Gad had told him in the Name of the Lord... 20But when Ornan turned and saw the king and four of his sons coming to see him, he tried to hide (for he’d been threshing wheat at the time). 21But when David got there, Ornan came down from the threshing floor and bowed with his face to the ground before him.  
  
22And David said:  
  
 ‘I want to buy your threshing floor, because I wish to build an Altar to Jehovah upon it.  
  
 ‘Tell me how much you want for it, since this will bring an end to the calamity that has been plaguing the people.’  
  
23And Ornan said to David:  
  
 ‘Just take it… And may my lord the king do whatever he thinks is best!  
  
 ‘{Look!} Here are some calves to sacrifice as whole burnt offerings, as well as some wood and some grain.  
  
 ‘I’m giving it all to you!’  
  
24But David told him:  
  
 ‘No, I want to pay you whatever it’s worth.  
  
 ‘There’s no way that I’d take what’s yours for Jehovah and then sacrifice whole burnt offerings for myself without paying you.’  
  
25So David paid Ornan 600 weighed gold coins for his place, 26then he built an Altar to Jehovah and sacrificed whole burnt offerings and a deliverance offering, as he stood there calling out to Jehovah.  
  
Well, Jehovah listened to him from the heavens as he was standing there by the fire with the whole burnt offerings on the Altar... 27So the Lord spoke to the messenger, who then put his broadsword back into its sheath.  
  
28And David recognized that Jehovah had listened to him there at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, where he’d offered the sacrifices.  
  
  
29Well, at the time, the Tent of Jehovah that Moses had made was out in the desert, as was the Altar for sacrificing whole burnt offerings… It was located on the High Place in GibeOn. 30But David wouldn’t go there right away to seek the face of God, because he didn’t want to turn away too quickly from the broadsword that was being held by Jehovah’s messenger.