



“REASONS TO REJOICE”

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

I and II SAMUEL Lesson 24

Well, ladies, this is it. Last week we began reading the appendix of the book, and now we'll be finishing our study of II Samuel. Boy, have we learned a lot. I can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit decided to close this book. I'm sure there are still more lessons for us to learn. Make sure you pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and ears to every single thing He has to say to you!

First Day

- 1. Read David's last words in II Samuel 23:1-7. What is the main point of this psalm? What is the key verse?*
- 2. How does David describe himself?*
- 3. Why is it significant that David was the son of Jesse?*

This psalm sounds more like someone else talking about David, doesn't it? This is a unique style of poetry. David is giving testimony to the divine origin of his writings.

4. *If the Spirit of the Lord wrote these Psalms, who wrote the Scriptures?
Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.*
5. *Do you allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you, or serve through you?
Do you recognize the gifts of the Spirit in your life? (What gifts has He
given you?)*
6. *David's words will be fulfilled when Jesus Christ returns to rule in
perfect justice. What do the following verses say about that?*
- A. *Jeremiah 23:5-6*
- B. *Isaiah 11:1-10*
- C. *Zechariah 9:9-10*
7. *What is David saying in II Samuel 23:5?*

David seems to be rejoicing in the covenant God made with him in II Samuel 7:4-17. God promised David prosperity in his house, a royal throne of authority, and a kingdom on earth established. God promised that the Messiah would come through David's line. David realizes that it is not because of anything he's done. He knows his house is not worthy of this

blessing, but it's by God's grace. He said that His promise is secure and ordered. God made a covenant with you and me, too! He promised us that if we confess our sins with our mouth, and believe in Him in our heart, we will be saved. In John 3:16 He promises everlasting life to those who love Him. And you know what? He always keeps His promise. Have you asked the Lord to forgive you of your sins? 1 John 1:9 promises us that if we confess our sins, He will forgive us. He died on the cross, paying the penalty for all of our sins, so that we might have access to the Father.

Do you, like David, feel that your relationship with the Lord is ordered and secure, or do you continually doubt your salvation? The Lord says that He will never leave us or forsake us! It can't get any better than that!

- 8.** *What will happen to the godless and the evil, according to verses 6-7? What are they likened to?*

I pray that you have made a decision for Christ and are walking with Him. Although we learn so much from David, the most important part of his life is that it's through his line that Jesus is born. He is the One whom we should be getting to know as intimately as possible. He's our Messiah, our Prince of Peace, our Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God!

Memory Verse of the Week: *“Although my house is not so with God, yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and secure.” II Samuel 23:5*

Second Day

What's your memory verse? Are you secure in the Lord?

- 1.** *Let's read II Samuel 23:8-39 and 1 Chronicles 11:10-50. This is a record of David's mighty men of valor. How many do you find?*

2. *What two groups seem to be mentioned?*

3. *List a few of the men that are mentioned and the acts they were remembered for.*
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

4. *Notice who is number 37.*

5. *David takes note of three men specifically in verses 13-17 that seemed to go above and beyond the call of duty. What did they do?*

6. *Why wouldn't David drink the water? Why do you think the Holy Spirit recorded this piece of information?*

There are 37 heroes honored in this list. There was a group of "30" and a group of "3." The list of 30 mentions 37 names, but some of the warriors probably died in battle. These men were from all over Israel, as well as other surrounding nations. David's mighty men consisted of many fugitives with various backgrounds (1 Samuel 22:1-2). The list of men included those who supported him while he was in the caves of Adullam. David doesn't forget anybody, does he? He records all their acts of service. Some did more and some did less, but they were all honored.

7. *God knows every single act of service that we do in His name. No matter how big, or how small, He knows. Read Hebrews 6:10. How does that encourage you?*

Irving Jensen said, “The record of our services for our King is kept accurately and will be opened someday. Then we will be rewarded according to our works as soldiers of the cross and workmen in His vineyard.”

David was touched by the sacrifice of the three men who brought him the water to quench his thirst. For the Hebrews, the blood contained life and must always be poured out to God and never consumed. This water represented the lives of the soldiers who put themselves at risk. David was moved by their love and faithfulness to him.

8. *Some feel that these men were so “successful” because of the leader they followed. What do you think about that? What can we learn from our leaders?*
9. *Are you a leader in any capacity? Are you a strong one? Do you lead with all diligence (Romans 12:8)? Are you leading in a way that would honor the Lord?*
10. *These men were faithful to the end. If you are in a support position, are you faithful? Can your “leader” count on you? Trust you? If they had to make a list of their “mighty women,” would you be on it?*

- 11. If there are any names in this chapter that specifically interest you, take some time and see if you can find out more about them. See you tomorrow!*

Third Day

Practice your memory verse.

- 1. Read II Samuel 24:1-25 and 1 Chronicles 21. List the facts. What is the main thought of this chapter? Answer the questions who, what, where, when, and how.*

- 2. According to verse 1, God was angry with all of Israel. Do we know why?*

- 3. What did David ask Joab to do? What was Joab's counsel to him?*

- 4. Why do you think it was wrong to take a count of the people?*

- 5. How many people were there in David's kingdom?*

6. *Do you think God made David sin? Why or why not? (Does God make people sin?)*

In verse 1, it sounds like God moved on David's heart to sin. How can that be? We know that the Lord does not tempt people to sin (James 1:13), but He allows the true intent of people's hearts to come forth. 1 Chronicles 21:1 tells us that satan is the "he" that tempted David to take the count. How do we put the two statements together? Irving Jensen explains it this way: "The two statements can be reconciled by remembering that the Old Testament writers often attribute to God's agency that which He permitted." In other words, if God allowed it, to them it was like God actually did it. Charles Swindoll offers that "the divine purpose for the census may have been judgment, maybe because Israel abandoned David to follow Absalom. So, was the root of David's decision his own pride, the Lord's anger, or satan's hatefulness? The answer is ... yes to all three, because all three played a role in the decision. As part of God's judgement, the Lord allowed satan to tempt David. Determined to do as much damage as he could, satan found a crack of pride in David's character and moved him to lead the nation into destruction. However, what Satan planned for evil, God would use for good. Satan expected divine judgement to crush David, but God would use it to refine him. And the sword of justice that satan hoped would wipe out the nation, God would use to demonstrate His mercy to the world." This event was an example of God permitting satan to work so that the purposes of the Lord might be fulfilled." (See Luke 22:31-34)

What was actually wrong with taking a census, we might ask? A census in itself was not bad. Usually one was taken to number the people when they were preparing for battle, such as in Numbers 1:2 and 26:2. But the land was at peace at this time. There was no need to do it, except to satisfy the curiosity in David's heart. Israel had grown as a nation, expanding their territory, and pride was one of David's motives. According to 1 Chronicles 18-20, David had won many victories. He wanted to know just how many men he was in charge of. Also, David temporarily forgot that the size of the army wasn't what would assure victory. The battle belonged

to the Lord, and they were supposed to depend on God, not themselves, or the size of their army. David's ambition got the best of him. He had pride in his own power. J. Vannoy said, "David's census represented an unwarranted glorying in and dependence on human power rather than the Lord."

- 7. Let's apply this to us today. What are some ways that Christians today are guilty of "numbering the people"? What can some of their motives be?*

- 8. Have you been trusting in the size of your "army," or past experience, or other things, instead of relying on the Lord?*

- 9. Why is it wrong for churches to be concerned only with the size of their church? Are numbers the stamp of approval from the Lord?*

- 10. How long did God give David to change his mind and repent? Did he do it?*

- 11. God allowed David to choose his discipline. What did David choose? Why? Would you have done the same?*

12. *How many people died as a result of David's sin? What lessons do we learn from this?*

13. *Do you think this sin was "worse" than his sin with Bathsheba?*

Warren Wiersbe makes an interesting observation about this event. He says, "There is an interesting series of contrasts between this sin and his sin with Bathsheba: (1) this was a sin of the spirit (pride) while the other was a sin of the flesh; (2) here he acted with deliberate persistence, while his sin with Bathsheba came as a result of the sudden overwhelming desires of the flesh; (3) this sin involved the nation, and 70,000 people died; his other sin was a family matter, with 4 people dying. (4) Yet in both sins, God gave David time to repent, but he waited too long. From a human point of view, numbering the people does not seem a greater sin than adultery and murder; yet from God's point of view, taking a census was a sin greater in its disobedience and consequences. Jesus, when on earth, was forgiving toward the publicans and sinners but severe with the proud and rebellious. Certainly sins both of the flesh and of the spirit are evil, and a person should not be involved in either one, but we dare not underestimate the awful results of pride and stubborn disobedience."

14. *Write your thoughts on the quote from Mr. Wiersbe.*

Verse 10 says that David's heart condemned, or troubled him. In Hebrew, this word means "to attack or to smite." His conscience attacked him when he realized he was putting the people of Israel in danger.

15. *Have you ever had your conscience “attack” you? What are you supposed to do about it?*

Tomorrow we’ll look at what David does to make atonement for his sin, which, again, affects many. Could it be that the people of Israel became proud of their status as a nation just as David did, which aroused the Lord’s anger? I don’t know the answer, but I do know that I don’t want to stir up the Lord’s anger, do you?

Fourth Day

Practice your memory verse.

Today we’ll be going over chapter 24 again. It’s interesting that in 1 Chronicles 21:6, Joab refused to include the tribes of Levi and Benjamin in the count. Levi was the priestly tribe, and the tabernacle and the ark were located in Benjamin territory. Maybe Joab wanted to keep the worship of God from being a part of David’s sin. David should have listened to counsel from Joab, but he didn’t. We don’t see David consulting the Lord, or the prophet, or anyone. He made this decision all by himself.

1. *Read II Samuel 24:1-25, concentrating on verses 15-25. How do you think David felt? Do you think he was afraid?*

2. *What plague did God send, and how many people died?*

3. *Where was the angel when God restrained him?*

4. *When David saw the angel ready to destroy Jerusalem, how did he react? Did he take responsibility for his sin?*

Some see the angel as a literal angel (Exodus 12:23, 2 Kings 19:35), while others see the account as personifying the plague as the angel of death.

5. *Instead of continuing the judgment, what did God graciously require?*
6. *David goes to Araunah to buy the threshing floor, and this man offers to give it to him for free. Why didn't David want to take it?*
7. *How can we apply this principle to ourselves today?*

Araunah, or in some texts Ornan, was not a Jew. It is thought by some that he was the last Jebusite king of Jerusalem, whom David had allowed to live in honorable retirement after Jebus (Jerusalem) had finally come under Israelite control.

8. *What does David do at the threshing floor? Does God hear?*
9. *Review the account in 1 Chronicles 21. What details are added?*

Many believe that this is the location that Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18). This holy mountain is where Solomon later built the temple (2 Chronicles 3:1). God turned this curse into a blessing. We know that Solomon was the son of Bathsheba, and yet he became king and built the temple on the ground that was associated with David's greater sin of numbering the people.

10. What does the above paragraph show us about God's character?

11. It is said that, "A religion that costs nothing is no true religion at all." What does that statement mean? Has, and does, your "religion" cost you anything? Do you ever attempt to give God that which costs you nothing?

12. List some of the practical lessons from this chapter.

We'll stop here for today. Although it is sad to end this book with David's sin of numbering the people, it's exciting to see God's grace and mercy in action. David owns his sin, repents, accepts his consequences, but grieves that those consequences have to affect so many others. Again we are reminded that David is not a man after God's heart because he is perfect, but because he's a man who confessed his sins to God. He remained loyal to God throughout his lifetime.

Fifth Day

Write your verse by memory.

The book of II Samuel recorded much of David's reign. The Life Application Bible says that "David had accomplished what no leader before him, judge or king, had done. His administration was run on the principle of dedication to God and to the well-being of the people."

What happened to David? How did he die? Let's find out.

1. *Read 1 Chronicles 29:26-30 and 1 King 1:1-4. Why do you think David's servants brought him a young virgin? How is he described in his death?*

2. *Before he died, David gave a charge to his son Solomon who would take over the throne. Read 1 Kings 2:1-12 and 1 Chronicles 28:9-10. What are some things that David counsels Solomon to do? What warnings does David give him? What does he say about godliness?*

3. *Thinking back over David's life, what:*
 - A. *Impressed you the most?*

B. Challenged you the most?

C. Convicted you the most?

4. How has the study of I and II Samuel changed you?

5. What is the greatest lesson you learned about God?

I just have to end with this paragraph from Charles Swindoll because it is so descriptive of the significance of chapter 24. He says:

“This story from David’s life provides one of the most dramatic pictures of salvation in the Bible. The angel of the Lord appears with his terrible sword of justice drawn and ready to strike the condemned. But between the angel and the sinners is an altar, and on the altar is a sacrifice. A humble prayer is spoken, and the sky unleashes a thunderbolt of fire—the wrath of God—that consumes not the sinners but the sacrifice. Justice served, the angel sheathes his sword, and the sinners are set free.

Upon this hill of mercy, known as Mount Moriah, the foundation is laid for the temple and the sacrifices, as well as the redemption of the world. For we are condemned sinners standing beneath the angel’s blade on a hill called Mount Calvary. The altar is the cross. And the sacrifice is Christ. The apostle Paul fits these pieces together in his definitive statement of salvation truths: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now

been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Romans 5:8-9)

Christ's sacrifice frees us from God's wrath. Why, then, do we often live in fear? Christ's death covers all sin, even the ones that have left a trail of destruction in their path. The abortion. The affair. The rebellion. How long will we condemn ourselves for the sins God has forgiven? God has sheathed His sword. Maybe it's time to put ours away too."

6. Are there any sins in your past that you're still holding on to? Will you surrender them now?

7. How do the books of I and II Samuel show us the depravity of man?

8. How do they show us the sovereignty of God?

9. What aspect of David do you relate to the most? Why?

10. This is the most important question of all. Have you accepted the forgiveness that Jesus offers you? That final sacrifice on the cross was for you and me. Have you received it?

God bless you, ladies. It's been a joy to study God's Word with you. It changed my life, and I hope it changed you, too. If you want to learn more about Solomon and the building of the temple, keep on reading through the Chronicles and 1 and 2 Kings. There is so much more to know!

*I pray that you will look for **"Reasons to Rejoice"** every day. And I must tell you, each one of you is a **"Reason to Rejoice"** for me, but more importantly, to God Himself. Always remember that you are His delight!*

DAVID'S TRIUMPHS

David was a man after God's own heart (1Sam. 13:14), that is, his will was completely committed to the will of his Lord. As a dedicated servant of God, he was used by God to perform mighty acts for the sake of His chosen people Israel.



- King of Judah (2:4)
- King of Israel (5:3)
- Conquers Jerusalem (5:7)
- Returns ark (6:12)
- Davidic covenant (7:16)
- Defeats Philistines (8:1)
- Defeats Moab (8:2)
- Defeats Ammon (10:16)
- Defeats Syria (10:19)

DAVID'S TROUBLES

<i>Causes</i>	<i>Effects</i>
Adultery (11:4) Murder of Uriah (11:17) Amnon's incest (13:14) Absalom usurps throne (16:15,16) The census (24:2)	Bathsheba bears a son (11:5) Accused, repents, but the child dies (12:10,13,19) Amnon murdered (13:28, 29) Absalom murdered (18:14,15) Plague (24:15)
Consistently illustrated in the life of David's household is the principle that a disobedient life is a troubled life.	

Tables used from Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts

