

GIANT KILLER

Part Eight: *counting*

November 20, 2022

We are in a message series entitled Giant Killer where we are examining the life of David. In this series we are learning how to form a “David like” relationship with God so we will trust Him with our giant-sized problems. Last Sunday, I showed you what David did after he sinned to rebuild his life and kingdom. Today, I want to show you what happened when David took a census.

In 2 Samuel 24, David is counting.

The event recorded in 2 Samuel 24 occurred late in David’s reign, just prior to his instructions to Solomon about building the temple (1 Chron. 21:28–22:19). For reasons not stated, God was angry with Israel again, and the Lord led David to take a census so He could punish the Israelites (2 Samuel 24:1-2; 1 Chronicles 21:1-2)

Is there a contradiction between 2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21?

- No. God used Satan to test David’s devotion and punish Israel’s sin.

Throughout history, God has used Satan in various ways to test, refine, and discipline His children (Luke 22:31–32; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5; 2 Cor. 12:7–10). The Lord does not want to cause us to sin. He wants us to see if we have pride in our hearts, and identify what we love the most (James 1:2-15; 1 John 2:15-17).

Why did David want to take a census?

- David wanted to boast about his military might.

The fact that David only counted military men (2 Sam. 24:2, 9) suggests that he was interested in determining the size of his army so he could brag about what he had built.

Two bad things happened when David decided to take a census:

1. David sinned against God. 2 Samuel 24:10, 17
2. People under David’s rule suffered. 2 Samuel 24:10-15

What did David do to stop the death?

- David confessed his sin, begged for mercy, and made a sacrifice to the Lord. 2 Samuel 24:16-18, 25

What can you learn from this part of David’s life?

- God will test your devotion to Him.
- God will judge your sin.
- God wants you to confess your sins so He can cleanse you of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Some questions to ask yourself this week...

1. Are you taking ownership and boasting about stuff that does not belong to you?
2. Do you recognize when you are being testing and tempted?
3. Are you regularly confessing your sins to the Lord?