



Burnt Offerings Which Cost Me Nothing

The man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14) was not always in tune with God's heart. Most Bible students who are familiar with David will immediately think of his infidelity with Bathsheba and his indirect murder of her former husband Uriah. Thankfully, he repented and was forgiven. But how often do we remember the time David sinned by taking a census of his army? Yes, David instructed the captain over his army, Joab, "Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people" (2 Samuel 24:2). And it was sinful. How, you may ask? What is so wrong with taking a census? Such is normally necessary for practical organization and for the overseeing of a nation. The difficulty for us is the lack of chronological events directly proportionate to the account in 2 Samuel 24. However, we can get a better idea of what David did wrong when we consider the context of the same account . . .

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
each Sunday at 12:30

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Joe Owen Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

. . . according to 1 Chronicles.

The account of David's census and its sinful repercussions can be read at 1 Chronicles 21. But if one were to back up to 1 Chronicles 18 and read up to our chapter of interest, one could gain an idea for the tremendous victories over surrounding nations and peoples that God had given into the hands of King David. God gave him victory over Philistia, Moab, Zobah-Hamath, Syria, Ammon, Syria again, Rabbah, and Philistine giants. As David defeated enemies, his power, prosperity, population, and platoons increased. The temptation came to David as it would come to any person of power and prestige. And he gave into the temptation. You see, David's instruction for Joab to number his people was an expression of selfish boasting. It was a moment of trust in physical strength, and forgetfulness of the God who gave it. David's census was motivated by godless pride. Joab knew it; for, he tried to prevent the king: "The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?" (1 Chronicles 21:3). David proceeded with the census anyway, and God punished Israel because of it. God sent a pestilence that destroyed 70,000 men, yet God mercifully stopped His destruction before He completed the sentence. Only God knows how many more would have fallen had He fully accomplished the pestilence. David trusted in his numbers—God decreased them.

David's sin was self-exaltation. Therefore, the solution was self-humiliation. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up" (James 4:10). David humbled himself by admitting his sin. David humbled himself by repenting. David humbled himself by confessing his sin. And David humbled himself by making great sacrifice. David was commanded to set up an altar of sacrifice on the property of an Jebusite named Araunah. Araunah was gracious toward . . .

... toward the king and wanted to give all that David desired to him so that he might worship God. Interestingly, David refused to receive these things as a gift. He insisted that he purchase these things from Araunah, saying these words: "I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). David's same sin can be a temptation to all. Any of us can trust in the numbers we have in our bank accounts, the numbers of our family members, the numbers of things we possess, but we must resist this pride and trust in the God who provides all good and perfect gifts (James 1:17; Proverbs 3:5). If ever we are tempted to trust in our numbers, it may be best to give sacrifice of our numbers. In order to humble ourselves, our sacrifices toward God must cost us something.

—written by Clifton Angel

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

1. Dec 12: Youth Devo & Tacky Santa @ Angels'
6 pm, wear tacky Christmas apparel, bring a gag gift that cost less than \$10, and bring a finger food! All invited. Younger children can participate in an ornament exchange.
2. Jan 17: Bible Bowl @ Independence
4 pm, Genesis 43–45

REMEMBER NOW THY
CREATOR Ecclesiastes 12:1

Sermon Review

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

- I. We Are Subject to Death
- II. We Are Subject to Demands of Nature
- III. We Are Subject to Decisions
- IV. We Don't Know, Sometimes

DEVO: WHAT IS MAN?

Psalm 8:3–4

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Rebecca Brown, traveling to be with her father in NC; **Spencer, Ferrell, & Colvett** families in tragic loss of Alex Spencer; **Molly Ratliff's** tests had favorable results; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Tyler Smart, suffered many injuries in car accident, at Med improving; **Allen Bulla**, Rebecca's father, not doing well; **Jason Spencer**, several serious health problems & loss of wife and son this year; **Janet Colvett**; **Bill Fleming**, Billie Martin's father; **Joy Angel**; **John Smith**, Grace's brother-in-law, colon cancer; **Andrew Jones**, friend to Weslyn, battling cancer; **Elizabeth Baker**; **John & Anita Simpson** and family; **Paul Perkins**, Mischel's father; **Janie Brister**; **Ray Hendrix**, lymphoma; **Carole Livsey**, Clifton's aunt, lymphoma; **Trent Childers**; **Amanda Cummings**, young mother with cancer; **Danielle Key**, young mother with cancer; **Andy's grandmother**; **Carla Carlson**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer treatments; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**; **Ray Maples**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, lung cancer; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**.

Birthdays

12/17 Kaiden Ferrell
12/22 Dalton Owen
12/23 Jeremy Moore
12/24 Daniel Owen
12/30 Renee Davis

Anniversaries

12/13 Jerry & Renee Davis

Get Involved!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- TODAY
Between services

Youth Devo & Tacky Santa at Angels' -- Dec 12
6 pm, wear tacky Christmas apparel, bring a gag gift that cost less than \$10, and bring a finger food! All invited. Younger children can participate in ornament exchange.

Providence Place Devo -- Dec 14 -- 2 PM

Secret Sister Reveal Party -- Dec 18

Bible Bowl -- Jan 17, 4 PM -- Genesis 43 - 45

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, December 7

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jim Jackson
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Joe Owen
	Chris Martin
Assist	Daniel Owen
	Will Brooks
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeremy Moore

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Jerry Davis
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Joe Owen
	Daniel Owen
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Wednesday, December 10

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Russell Wadsworth