

The Morning After the Mourning

II Samuel 24:1-17; Psalm 30

David took a census of all the fighting men in the nation
Joab protested, but David overruled him
Joab reported there were 1.3 million men able to fight
Then David had an attack of conscience and pleaded with the Lord to remove his guilt
So why did God incite David if God does not lead us into temptation? Why did God punish the people for David's sin?

What?

Forgetting God will be your downfall, so rely on Him as your "Wherewithal"

David's side of the story—

David's account of his sin and repentance is in Psalm 30
Vss. 1-3—God returned David to favour after he sinfully numbered the military
He felt he was acting like those who are on the road to hell
Vss. 4-5—The promise is that joy comes after repentance
Vss. 6-7—"My mountain" refers to Jerusalem; David hypocritically attributed its strength to God, with inner pride
God hid His face during the plague, which brought David to the point of repentance
Vss. 8-10—David confessed and asked for the Lord's help, not just with the plague, but also with his own pride
Vss. 11-12—David recognized that God gave him his life back to glorify Him

The Big Question—Why did God incite David and why did He punish the people for David's sin?

II Samuel 23 and I Chronicles 20 describe David's legendary fighting men, who became a source of national pride

I Chronicles 21:1, ESV—Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel

God allowed it in order to surface sinful pride, but Satan did the tempting

But why did God punish the people? The answer is found in II Samuel 24:1—"The anger of the Lord burned against Israel"

Connection with Jesus—

Matthew 5:5, ESV—"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"

Jesus went on to exemplify the furthest extent of meekness by submitting to death on a cross

But in that death He conquered

So What?

"Practical atheism," is paying lip service to the Lord but living as if He doesn't exist

Psalm 53:1, ESV—The fool says in his heart, "There is no God"

We must live like people who truly believe that God is real, He is with us, and he will never forsake his children

The last word—Paul

II Corinthians 12:9, ESV—But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me

Now What?

Daily thanks to God is the antidote for arrogance
Cooperate with the Spirit when He convicts you of arrogance