

## **2 Samuel - Chapters 21 to 24**

### **Final 4 Studies**

#### **[Part 5]**

## OUTLINE OF THE BOOK—

### A. Triumphs of David (2 Samuel 1-10)

- i. David mourns the deaths of Saul & Jonathan (2 Sam 1)
- ii. David make king over Judah (2 Sam 2)
- iii. Civil war (2 Sam 3)
- iv. Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul killed (2 Sam 4)
- v. David, king over all Israel (2 Sam 5)
- vi. David's attempts to bring the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6)
- vii. God's covenant to build the house of David (2 Sam 7)
- viii. David consolidates his kingdom (2 Sam 8)
- ix. David befriends Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9)
- x. David wars against Ammon and Syria (2 Sam 10)

### B. Troubles of David (2 Samuel 11-24)

- i. David's two great sins (2 Sam 11)
- ii. Nathan faces David with his sins; David repents, (2 Sam 12)
- iii. David's daughter Tamar raped by Amnon, David's son; Amnon murdered by Absalom, David's son, (2 Sam 13)
- iv. David permits Absalom to return with half-hearted forgiveness, (2 Sam 14)
- v. Absalom rebels against David (2 Sam 15)
- vi. Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, deceives David; Shimei curses David (2 Sam 16)
- vii. Absalom's advisers disagree on attack against David (2 Sam 17)
- viii. Absalom slain and David mourns (2 Sam 18)
- ix. David restored to throne (2 Sam 19)
- x. Sheba revolts against David (2 Sam 20)
- xi. Three years of famine; Gibeonites take vengeance on house of Saul; war with Philistines (2 Sam 21)
- xii. David's song of deliverance (2 Sam 22)
- xiii. David's last words; David's mighty men (2 Sam 23)
- xiv. David's sin in taking census (2 Sam 24)

## Study 1 - 2 Samuel 21:1-22 - Gibeonites Avenged and Wars against the Philistines

(Sermon on 8-Nov-20)

### Read 2 Samuel 21:1-9

1. What prompts David to seek God's advice?

*There was a famine in the land for 3 years.*

*So, David thought that there might be a spiritual reason for the famine.*

2. What reason does God give for the 3-year famine?

*Apparently at some time in King Saul's reign (not recorded in 1 or 2 Samuel), Saul attacked and killed many of the Gibeonites.*

*It was wrong of Saul to harm the Gibeonites. See Joshua 9.*

3. Who were the Gibeonites? (Read Joshua 9 for background)

*In the days of Joshua (400 years earlier); Israel had sworn not to harm the Gibeonites, who were neighbours of Israel at the time.*

*Even though in Joshua 9, the Gibeonites tricked the Israelites by pretending to be from a faraway place; the Israelites had made an agreement, and God expected that promise to be kept.*

*If God expects nations/people to keep their promises; it reassures us that God will keep His promises; and that time does not diminish these promises.*

4. What do the Gibeonites demand?

*They demanded justice and demanded that 7 male descendants of Saul be given over to the Gibeonites, to be killed and exposed before the Lord at Gibeah (where King Saul reigned from)*

5. Why does David spare Mephibosheth?

*David spared Mephibosheth because he was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson; and David had made an oath to Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:3) and David had made an oath to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:7)*

6. What does David agree to do? Why?

*David agreed to give 7 men to them.*

*Why? Because David knew that Saul had done the wrong thing and that justice had to be served; so that the famine would stop.*

*The 7 were hanged or exposed [Hebrew means hanged or executed slowly by exposure or impalation] on a hill.*

*Exposed 'before the Lord' - implies God approved of this execution.*

*See Deuteronomy 21:23 - 'anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse.'*

### **Read 2 Samuel 21:10-14**

7. What does Rizpah do and why?

*She grieved for the men, especially her two sons, bore to her by Saul; namely: Armoni and Mephibosheth (not Jonathan's son).*

*Such was her grieve; she sat on a rock covered in sackcloth (symbol of grieve) and sat there from the beginning of the harvest and held a vigil until the late rains came. She shooed away birds during the day and wild animals by night, to protect the exposed bodies of the 7 men.*

8. What's the significance of the rains in verse 10? (cf. verse 1)

*The rains showed that justice had been served and the famine was now over.*

9. Why were the bodies of the seven, left exposed? How does David remedy this?

*The bodies of the 7 men, showed that these men had been executed as an act judgement.*

*It would also show those watching on, what happens when oaths are not kept.*

*How does David remedy the exposed bodies? He brought Saul and Jonathan and the bodies of the 7 men and gathered them up for proper burial. Saul and Jonathan's bodies were placed in Saul's father Kish's tomb in Saul's homeland of Benjamin.*

10. How do we explain the statement at the end of v14, "after that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land"?

*It doesn't mean that God had never answered the people's prayers from the time that Saul had wrongly killed the Gibeonites up until the time of David. It means that God had chosen this time, to deal with Saul's sin against the Gibeonites; and specifically answered the prayers regarding the famine; once David addressed the sin that Saul had perpetrated.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 21:15-22**

11. What do we learn about David in verses 15 to 17?

*David is getting older (I know the feeling!) and becomes exhausted in battle. One of the Philistine's, Ishbi-Benob, was about to kill David. We also find out that David is too important for Israel, to be lost in battle. In V17, David is described as the "lamp of Israel" that will not be extinguished!*

12. Who comes to David's rescue?

*Abishai (Joab's brother and David's nephew) comes to the rescue and kills the Philistine. See Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - two are better than one...*

13. What victories do David's men accomplish? Why do you think these victories are important?

- a. Ishbi-Benob is defeated*
- b. At one battle at Gob; the Philistine, Saph, was killed*
- c. At another battle at Gob; the brother of Goliath, was killed*
- d. At another battle at Gath, a giant with 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot, was also killed.*

*These victories show David's team in unity - and protecting and respecting their elderly leader*

*These victories dealt with their lingering arch enemy, the Philistines, in preparation for the next King, Solomon.*

**Read John 8:12-20**

14. How does this passage relate to the passage from 2 Samuel 21:1-22?

*Jesus uses the "I am" (YHWH) statement.*

*Jesus is speaking at the Festival of the Tabernacles and light was an important symbol as the people of Israel remembered being led through the wilderness with a pillar of fire for light*

*Jesus describes Himself as the Light of the World and says that following Him will take people out of their dark sinful lives and into the glorious light of eternal life in Heaven.*

*David is described in 2 Samuel 21 as the "lamp of Israel" - he is the godly king, the man after God's own heart, who is to lead Israel towards God and away from their surrounding enemies who walk in the darkness, of worshipping false gods.*

*Light is needed to show the way through darkness.*

*Jesus is like a guide for us to get through this dark sinful world and into the glorious light of Heaven.*

*Also, Jesus is described as the Word (John 1:1) and the Word is described as a lamp or light (Psalm 119:105; Psalm 43:3)*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 21:1-22?

- *The Cost of peace - the atonement made for Saul's sin - and the defeat of Israel's arch enemies, the Philistines. Someone has to pay for sin!*
- *Closure - tidying up loose ends - before the reign of Solomon*
- *King David - is vital to Israel and for their future.*
- *King Jesus - is vital to us - for forgiveness and our future eternal life in Heaven.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*V3 - Atonement has to be made for Saul's sin - Atonement has to be made for our sins through Jesus.*

*V9 - with reference to be hanged and exposed on a hill. As Galatians 3:13 says: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." (Deuteronomy 21:23)*

*V17 - David is described as the lamp of Israel - Jesus is the Light of the World.*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. Remember, we have Jesus (The Word) as a light to eternal life and lamp to living through His Word*
- b. Turn away from the darkness of sin, to the light of Jesus*
- c. We are to be lights for Jesus (Matthew 5:14-16)*
- d. Judgement for sin has to be made - and promises aren't forgotten even if 400 years later! God doesn't forget*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*2 Samuel 21:3*

*2 Samuel 21:9*

*2 Samuel 21:17*

*John 8:12*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God for Jesus the light of the world. Asking Jesus to help us to continue to walk in His light.

## Study 2 – 2 Samuel 22:1-51 – David's Song of Praise

(Sermon on 15-Nov-20)

**Before we begin:** How often do you spend time praising God?

*The four components of prayer are: Adoration (Praise), Confession, Thanks and Supplication (Shopping List). All too often, we focus on the latter. Unfortunately, we sometimes only think to prayer when we "want" God to do something for us. So, to answer the question honestly; the answer would "not enough time is spent praising God". When we focus on who God is, what His character is like and what He has done and continues to do; we truly get a sense of how awesome He is; and perhaps the word "awesome" should only really apply to Him. Also, we sometimes forget to confess our thoughts, words and deeds that have brought dishonour to His Holy Name; and we forget to say thank you when for His answers and His many blessings. As Psalm 103:1-4 says:*

<sup>1</sup> *Praise the LORD, my soul;*

*all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*

<sup>2</sup> *Praise the LORD, my soul,*

*and forget not all his benefits—*

<sup>3</sup> *who forgives all your sins*

*and heals all your diseases,*

<sup>4</sup> *who redeems your life from the pit*

*and crowns you with love and compassion,*

### Read 2 Samuel 22:1

1. What do we learn about what's coming in this chapter?

*From this first verse we get the sense that David will reflect on how God has helped him against his enemies and against Saul. He attributes all he experiences to God.*

2. Compare this chapter with Psalm 18? What do you discover?

Note the context

*Psalm 18, according to the heading, Psalm 18 was written: For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD. He sang to the LORD the words of this song when*

*the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. 2 Samuel 22, is presumably written towards the end of his life.*

*Psalm 18 is virtually the same as the psalm sung by David at the very end of his life, as recorded in 2 Samuel 22. It is likely that David composed this song as a younger man; yet in his old age David could look back with great gratitude and sing this song again, looking at his whole life.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 22:2-4**

3. List the ways God is described...

*God is described as a rock, fortress, deliverer; someone to take refuge in; also, a shield and horn of salvation; and as a stronghold. All these are signs of strength and protection. David gets his strength and protection from God; not himself.*

*Also, God is His Saviour and deliverer. And worthy of praise.*

*Think about how God protected and delivered David from: Goliath, Saul, the Philistines; Absalom and of course his sinful desires.*

4. Which picture do we get of God here?

*A picture of strength and protection. A picture of God being in control of David's life. A picture of an impenetrable fortress/castle. God's power is unlimited.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 22:5-20**

5. What troubles did David face in verses 5 & 6?

*Waves of death; torrents of destruction; cords of the grave and snares of death. David was constantly surrounded by danger and distress. Whether that was his enemies or his family problems. One commentator says - it's like Jonah in the sea. The fact that David felt like this, makes his leniency and restraint towards Saul, even more impressive!*

6. What does David do in his distress in verse 7? What can we learn from this?

*In his distress, David called out to God.*

*We can learn from this that we are not alone, and we have a Heavenly Father we can call out to in our distress.*

*We can also learn that we shouldn't just call out to God in our distress but at all times. **God should be a first option, not our last resort!***

7. What do we learn about God in verses 7 to 19?

In terms of His character?

*He is a listening God (v7)*

*He gets angry (v8)*

*He gets really angry (v9)*

*He intervenes in the affairs of the Earth (v10) - so He is not a distant God*

*He comes to help David - through His cherubim (v11)*

*He has great concern for David - He is a personal God (v17)*

*He helped David - God drew him out of the deep water, he was in (v17)*

*He is a rescuer (v18)*

*He is a supporter (v19)*

In terms of His power?

*As Creator, God is in control of all creation...*

*He can hear us from Heaven (v7)*

*He can make the Earth tremble and the Heavens shake (v8)*

*His anger is like consuming fire (v9)*

*He can part the Heavens (v10) and intervene in the Earth's affairs*

*He is everywhere - in Heaven and on Earth (v11)*

*He can issue darkness (v12) and lightning (v13) and his voices thunders (v14)*

*He can deal with David's enemies (v15)*

*His rebuke of David's enemies can physically affect the Earth (v16)*

*He is stronger than any of David's enemies (vv18-19)*

In terms of His love for David?

*He heard David's distress and acted (v7)*

*He dealt with David's enemies (v15)*

*He rebuked David's enemies (v16)*

*He personally intervened and reached down and helped David (v17)*

*He rescued David (v18) and supported him (v19)*

8. According to David, why did God deliver him from his enemies in verse 20b?  
*David believes God rescued him because he delights in David. David's rescue is based on having a close personal relationship with God; not simply his cry for help! God's unconditional love.*

## Read 2 Samuel 22:21-25

9. These verses explain why God delivered David. What reasons are given?

*V21 - Because of David's righteousness.*

*V21 - Because of the cleanness of his hands*

*V22 - Because David kept the ways of God*

*V22 - Because David is not guilty of turning from God*

*V23 - Because David has not turned away from God's laws and decrees*

*V24 - Because David is blameless and kept himself from sin*

*V25 - Because God has rewarded David's righteousness and cleanness*

10. How do reconcile David saying 'God has dealt with him according to his righteousness' (v21)? Especially when we consider his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah? (cf. 1 Samuel 13:14; 2 Samuel 22:13)

*Verses 21-25 are hard to take from David, when we reflect on his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah.*

*David isn't claiming sinless perfection in these verses.*

*He is speaking of his general righteousness in comparison to his enemies.*

*After all, David is a man after God's own heart.*

*As Spurgeon says: "Before God the man after God's own heart was a humble sinner, but before his slanderers he could with unblushing face speak of the 'cleanness of his hands' and the 'righteousness of his life'.*

*Also, one commentator makes the point that David upheld God's laws among the Israelite people; so v24 is plainly not recalling David's sin against Uriah; but concerned with royal policy, rather than personal conduct.*

*The bottom line is that David can only see himself as righteous, blameless and clean; not because of himself, but because of God's grace. In his youth, David, may have thought these things were true of himself, but at a mature age, he would realize, through life experiences; that he can only declare himself righteous, because of God's grace and mercy and forgiveness.*

*Remember God has removed our sin as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12)*

11. How can we make the same claim as David? (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:30 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)

*We can make the same claim, but not on our own basis of our own righteousness but on the righteousness, we receive from Jesus.*

*1 Cor 1:30 - It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

*2 Cor 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*

### **Read 2 Samuel 22:26-30**

12. What other reasons does David give for God's deliverance?

*God is faithful and blameless to those who trust Him (v26)*

*God is pure to those who are pure (v27)*

*God is shrewd - He knows people's hearts*

*God helps the humble of heart (v28)*

*God as a lamp for life - leading people out of darkness (v29)*

*By having God as personal - i.e. "my" God (v30)*

### **Read 2 Samuel 22:31-37**

13. What do we learn about God in these verses?

*Perfect (v31)*

*His Word is flawless (v31)*

*He is a shield and refuge (v31)*

*A Rock (v32)*

*Strength and security (v33)*

*Stability (v34)*

*A trainer and equipper (v35)*

*A Helper (v36)*

*A guide (v37)*

### **Read 2 Samuel 22:38-46**

14. What do we learn about David's deliverance?

*He was able to pursue and crush his enemies (vv38-39)*

*He was armed for battle by God and able to humble his enemies (v40)*

*God made David's enemies run away and David was able to destroy them (v41)*

*God did not answer David's enemies cries for help because God was on David's side (v42)*

*God also delivered David from the attacks of the peoples and preserved David as head of nations - even nations that didn't originally serve David (vv44-46)*

15. Who does David attribute his success to?

*To God who has helped him and preserved him and also dealt with his enemies.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 22:47-51**

16. What praise does David give in these verses?

*God is a living God! He is a Rock and a Saviour (v47)*

*God avenges David (v48)*

*God sets David free from his enemies (v49)*

*God exalted David above his enemies (v49)*

*David praises God among all the surrounding nations (v50)*

*David praises God for giving him victories (v51)*

*David hails God's unfailing kindness to him (v51)*

17. What promise do we find in verse 51?

*That God will show unfailing kindness to David and his descendants FOREVER!*

*There is an ultimate victory for us as descendants of Jesus. In Jesus we have victory in Heaven, regardless of what is happening on Earth.*

*"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!"*

### **Read Romans 15:7-13**

18. How does this passage relate to 2 Samuel 22?

#### **Romans 15:7-13**

*<sup>7</sup>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup>and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:*

*"Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles;*

*I will sing the praises of your name."*

*<sup>10</sup>Again, it says,*

*"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."*

*<sup>11</sup>And again,*

*“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;  
let all the peoples extol him.”*

<sup>12</sup> *And again, Isaiah says,*

*“The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope.”*

<sup>13</sup> *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Despite our sinfulness (like David), we have been accepted by Jesus*

*Why?*

*To bring praise to God (v7)*

*We are Gentiles are we must glorify God for his great mercy - just like David did,  
Just like David, we have so much to praise God for!*

### **Read Acts 13:21-23**

19. How does this passage relate to 2 Samuel 22?

#### **Acts 13:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’*

<sup>23</sup> *“From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised.*

*Acts 13:21-22 confirms the promise made in 2 Samuel 22:51 that God will show unfailing kindness to David’s descendants, this is done through David’s descendant, Jesus, who is the Saviour of the world. He’s the one who makes us righteous before God,*

What’s the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 22:1-51?

*Glorify God*

*Praise God for all He has done - most importantly His gift of salvation in Jesus*

*Praise God for His rescue plan - then, now and in the future!*

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*In verses V3, V4 and V47 David speaks of a Saviour and being saved - which points to Jesus.*

*V51 God promises unfailing kindness to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever. This points to Jesus who shows His unfailing kindness in dying for our sins.*

*All the adjectives used to describe God in 2 Samuel 22 - can also describe Jesus*

**➔** How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*We need to remember to praise God*

*We need to glorify God*

*We need to thank God for salvation through Jesus*

*God is not our last resort, but our first option - therefore pray.*

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit*

*Oh, what needless pain we bear*

*All because we do not carry*

*Everything to God in prayer*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*2 Sam 22:51*

**Finish in prayer:** Spend some time praising God for all He has done for you.

### Study 3 – 2 Samuel 23:1-39 – David's last words

(Sermon on 22-Nov-20)

#### Read 2 Samuel 23:1-4

1. In what sense are these David's last words, since there is still more to come in chapter 24?

*These were not David's last words on his death bed; but they were perhaps the last words in song/prose he wrote and said.*

*Some commentators suggest that these words might have been read at David's funeral.*

2. How does verse 1 sum up David's life?

- *Reminds us his humble beginnings as son of Jesse, a farmer; and David a shepherd boy*
- *Reminds us that God raised (exalted) David to be King*
- *Reminds us that God anointed David as King – David was chosen by God*
- *Reminds us he was a military hero and the subject of many of the psalms that he himself wrote*

3. What are the "ideal" attributes of a King of Israel according to verses 2 to 4?

*The "ideal" king would be:*

- *Inspired by the Holy Spirit*
- *He rules over the people in righteousness and rules in fear of the Lord. In other words, the King must be a Godly King knowing that His rule and reign and people must follow God's Law*
- *The King must be a blessing to his people and will be blessed (like light on a sunrise and brightness after rain) when he rules with godly justice.*

#### Read 2 Samuel 23:5-7

4. What is David trusting in, in these verses? And what does that get him?

*David trusts in the truth that God has made an everlasting covenant (v5) with David and his house – and that he finds security and salvation and blessings because of that.*

*God's covenant is based on His faithfulness to His promises and not us.*

5. What is the fate of the wicked? (cf. Matthew 13:40-41)

*They will be cast aside like thorns in a weeding process and burnt up!*

*A picture of Hell!*

*It shows us that God is in control and we should not fret about evildoers.*

**Read 2 Samuel 23:8-12**

6. What are the names of David's top three soldiers?
- The chief was Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite (aka Edino the Eznite)*
  - Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahoite*
  - Shammah son of Agee the Hararite*
7. What did each achieve?
- Josheb-Basshebeth killed 800 men with his spear*
  - Eleazar taunted the Philistines, with David, at a battle in Pas Dammim, and struck down the Philistines until his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory*
  - Shammah, at place where there was a field of lentils and the Israeli troops had fled, Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field; and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord brought about another great victory*
- All three were extremely brave men*

**Read 2 Samuel 23:13-17**

8. What did three of the thirty chief warriors do for David at Adullam? (cf. 1 Samuel 22:1-2) Why did they do that for David?

*David spent time in this cave at Adullam in 1 Samuel 22:1-2.*

*During this time, David, longed for the taste of water from the well near his childhood home in Bethlehem. [Like me saying: "I long for a pint of Guinness from my hometown of Dublin"]*

*Three of these warriors - even though not asked nor commanded - fulfilled David's desire by risking their lives and broke through the Philistine lines and went and got him water from that well.*

*They did this because of their love of the Lord's anointed, David.*

9. Why didn't David drink the water?

*David was so honored by the men's self-sacrifice, he felt the water was too good for him and he was not worthy, instead he felt the water was worthy to be poured out as a sacrifice to the Lord. David believed that the great sacrifice of these men could only be honoured by giving the water to the Lord.*

**Read 2 Samuel 23:18-23**

10. Two more notable men are mentioned here, what did they do?

Abishai

*Abishai, brother of Joab, son of Zeruiah. He raised his spear against 300 men. He became leader of the Three.*

Benaiah

*Benaniah, son of Jehoiada, a valiant fighter from Kabzeel. He struck down Moab's two mightiest warriors. He also killed a lion in pit on a snowy day. And struck down an Egyptian, with only a club, when the Egyptian had a spear.*

**Read 2 Samuel 23:24-39**

11. We are given a list of a further thirty of David's men. Why do you think the writer lists all these men in this chapter? (cf. 1 Samuel 22:1-2)

*To show that God blessed David with a mighty team of men.*

*To show that David could not have achieved victory of Israel's surrounding enemies, without the help of these mighty men.*

12. Why do you think Eliam and Uriah are mentioned?

*Because Eliam was Bathsheba's father (2 Samuel 11:3) and Uriah was Bathsheba's husband*

**Read Luke 1:26-38**

13. What does this passage have to do with 2 Samuel 23? (cf. 2 Samuel 23:5)

*Jesus will rule over the throne of his father, David, forever (Luke 1:32-33)*

**Read Hebrews 1:8**

14. What does this verse have to do with 2 Samuel 23? (cf. 2 Samuel 23:5)

*Jesus, the Son's, throne will last forever.*

**Read John 1:5; 3:19**

15. What do these verses have to do with 2 Samuel 23? (cf. 2 Samuel 23:4)

*David's rule is described in 2 Samuel 23:4 as being like a light.*

*John 1:5 describes Jesus as the light shining in darkness.*

*John 3:19 says Jesus, the light, has come into the world; and people have loved darkness instead of light, because their deeds are evil*

**Read Matthew 13:36-43**

16. What do these verses have to do with 2 Samuel 23? (cf. 2 Samuel 23:6-7)  
*Matthew 13:36-43 is the parable of the weeds explained.*

*Sower of good seed=Jesus*

*Field=The world*

*The good seed = people of Jesus' kingdom*

*Weeds = people of evil one*

*Enemy who sows weeds = the devil*

*Harvest = end of age = judgment = weeds put in a fire*

*Basically, a picture of Heaven or Hell!*

**Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17**

17. How do these verses relate to 2 Samuel 23?

*King Jesus, the eternal, immortal, invisible God - saves all who believe in Him, even the worst of sinners (as Paul describes himself). God keeps His covenant made with David - by sending Jesus.*

**Read Revelation 11:15**

18. How does this verse relate to 2 Samuel 23?

*Jesus, the Messiah's, Kingdom is a forever kingdom. Again, showing God keeps His everlasting covenant, made with David.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 23:1-39?

*Whatever is going on in this world and in our lives - God's promise of an everlasting covenant made to David, finds its fulfilment in Jesus. As long as we believe in Him; nothing else matters.*

*God's covenant is based purely on His faithfulness and not on human beings.*

*Acknowledgment of God's help in sending human help.*

*God sends people to help us sometimes for a season (Graham Pratt for our vision launch; and Charles for COVID19 - "for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)*

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*Everlasting covenant of v5 points to Jesus*

*David's rule as being a rule of light points to Jesus the light of the world.*

*Reference to thorns and weeds points to Jesus' parable and Him as the Judge.*

**➔** How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*We are secure in our belief in Jesus, the everlasting King. God always keeps His promises.*

*Remember to walk in the light of Jesus*

*Remember all must face judgement - are we sharing our faith with others - before it's too late*

*Remember to acknowledge those who have helped us - as David does here in this chapter. Remember that God sent this help.*

*We have a mighty warrior fighting for us - Jesus - He wages war over the darkness of evil. Jesus has already won victory of sin (evil) and death and he has given us the ability to resist temptation, when we rely on the Holy Spirit to enable us (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*2 Sam 23:4, 5. 6.*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God for His everlasting Covenant given to David and fulfilled in our Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

**Study 4 - 2 Samuel 24:1-25 - David's takes a census & builds an altar**  
**(Sermon on 29-Nov-20)**

**Before we begin, read 1 Chronicles 21:1-5**

1. Who moved David to carry out this census?

*Satan incited David to take a census (v1)*

2. How did Joab feel about it?

*Joab is not afraid to challenge the King, when he thinks he is in error!*

*Joab is not keen on the idea and objects; tactfully hinting at the real problem behind David's call for a census; and that is pride!*

*Notice too in v3 - Joab refers to the fact that it is troops are the Lord's troops. God will fight for His people (just like He did for Gideon)*

**Read 2 Samuel 24:1-4**

3. How do we reconcile 2 Samuel 24:1 and 1 Chronicles 21:1?

*As a rule of thumb; scripture can't contradict itself and so there must be an explanation for apparent contradictions; and it's always best to let scripture interpret scripture.*

*The best explanation is that Satan prompted David (as per 1 Chronicles 21:1) and the "he" in 2 Samuel 24:1 is actually Satan; and that the Lord allowed this to happen, yet also the Lord was angry about David taking the census.*

4. What's the problem with David taking a census? (cf. Exodus 30:12)

*This was a dangerous action on the part of David, as Exodus 30:12 says:*

*When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them.*

*The principle of Exodus 30:12 is that of God's ownership of His people.*

*In the thinking of the culture of the day, a man only had the right to count or number what belonged to him. Israel did not belong to David; Israel belonged to God. It was up to the Lord to command a census; not David. And if David did count the men, he could only do so at the Lord's request and pay a ransom for each man counted.*

*The ransom is a bit like a modern day poll tax [A poll tax, also known as head tax or capitation, is a tax levied as a fixed sum on every liable individual. Head taxes were important sources of revenue for many governments from ancient times until the 19th century.]*

5. What does Joab's objection expose in David? (cf. Proverbs 11:2; 16:18)

*Joab's objection exposes pride in David.*

*David has pride over both size of his army and the security from having such an army. But remember, it's the Lord's army.*

*Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*

*Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Read 2 Samuel 24:5-9**

6. Follow the route taken on the map in Appendix 1.

*Starting at Aroer in the south-east*

*Then moving north to Gad, Jazer, then Gilead*

*Then all the way to the north-west tip, as far as Sidon.*

*Then south to Tyre*

*Then as far south as Beersheba in the Negev region of Judah*

*Then finally returning to Jerusalem*

7. How long did the census take?

*The census took 9 months and 20 days.*

**Read 2 Samuel 24:10**

8. What did David realize in verse 10? And what does he do?

*David's conscience got the better of him.*

*He felt guilty.*

*His heart was sensitive to his sin and he confessed his sin openly to the Lord and admitted he had been foolish in taking the census.*

**Read 2 Samuel 24:11-14**

9. What 3 options, for punishment, does God present to David, through the Prophet Gad?

*a. Option 1 - 3 years of famine in the land*

*b. Option 2 - 3 months of fleeing from Israel's enemies*

*c. Option 3 - 3 days of plague in the land*

10. What option does David choose in verse 14? Why?

*David chose the third option; the 3 days of plague.*

*Why? Because he wanted to fall into the hands of the Lord because His mercy is great; rather than falling in human hands.*

*In option 1 - if there was a famine - David and the royal family could be pretty much protected from this - and receive special treatment*

*In option 2- if the army fled from their enemies for 3 months - again David and the royal family could be protected specifically, if necessary.*

*In option 3- the plague could affect anyone - rich/poor - royal family/subjects. David knew he had to expose himself too - to the chastisement of God; yet he also knew God is merciful.*

*The plague is a like the COVID19 virus - the plague does not discriminate; it attacks rich/poor and old/young; as does COVID19.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 24:15-17**

11. What does God do? What is the result?

*God sent the plague for the three days.*

*The result was that 70, 000 people died.*

*God relents from destroying Jerusalem.*

12. What does David do in verse 17? What do you think of his words and actions here?

*David takes full responsibility.*

*He has sinned and he is the shepherd of Israel.*

*He realizes he, the shepherd, has let his innocent sheep (the people) down.*

*And he is prepared to let God punish him and his family as the Lord sees fit.*

*David has survivor's guilt [Survivor guilt (or survivor's guilt; also called survivor syndrome or survivor's syndrome and survivor disorder or survivor's disorder) is a mental condition that occurs when a person believes they have done something wrong by surviving a traumatic or tragic event when others did not, often feeling self-guilt.]*

### **Read 2 Samuel 24:18-23**

13. What does God, through Gad, tell David to do?

*God does not punish David any further.*

*Instead through the prophet Gad, God tells David to build an altar to the Lord at the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite.*

14. See the map in appendix 2 for the location of the threshing floor.

*The threshing floor is in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, near the Kidron valley.*

*Threshing floor: a hard, level surface on which corn or other grain is threshed with a flail.*

*Threshing: **Threshing** is the process of loosening the edible part of grain (or other crop) from the straw to which it is attached. It is the step in grain preparation after reaping. ... **Threshing** may be done by beating the grain using a flail on a **threshing** floor.*

15. What do we know about the location of the threshing floor? (cf. Genesis 22:2, 14; 1 Chronicles 21:28-22:5 and 2 Chronicles 3:1)

*Genesis 22:2 - the place where Abraham was told to sacrifice his only son, Isaac  
1 Chronicles 21:28-22:5 - David declares this site to be where his son, Solomon's Temple for the Lord, is to be built.*

*2 Chronicles 3:1 - Solomon builds the temple there.*

*There are no coincidences with God.*

16. What did Araunah offer David? Why did he refuse?

*Araunah offered David the animals to make the sacrifice and all the threshing equipment. But David refuses because, as he says in v24, 'I will not sacrifice to the Lord my burnt offerings that cost me nothing!'*

*Instead David paid, 50 shekels of silver for the threshing floor and oxen.*

17. What does God do when David makes his sacrifice?

*The Lord answered David's prayer on behalf of the land and stopped the plague.*

18. Why weren't the 70,000 deaths (verse 15) enough of a punishment/sacrifice without David having to make a sacrifice/offering?

*The 70,000 deaths were the punishment for David's sin. That was the consequence. For atonement there has to be bloodshed in the approved way, approved by God.*

*Atonement can only be achieved by **God's approved substitute** (the lamb, the bull, the Lamb of God)*

**Read 1 John 1:9**

19. What does this have to do with 2 Samuel 24?

*1 John 1:9 says: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*That's what David did here!*

**Read Romans 5:1-11**

20. What does this have to do with 2 Samuel 24?

*V1 - Peace from the plague in 2 Samuel 24 was achieved through the sacrifice. We have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus.*

*V2 - We have access to God's grace (forgiveness and eternal life) through our faith in Jesus. God showed His grace and mercy to David. He deserved to be personally punished for what he did; but God showed grace. We deserved to be punished for our sins; but because of the grace of Jesus; we go free.*

*V3 - Our sufferings produce perseverance. David and Israel suffered greatly through the plague. David grew stronger through yet another period of suffering.*

*V4-5 - Perseverance produces character (certainly true of David). And character produces hope. David had hope in the mercy of God and he was not disappointed. We have the certain hope of Heaven, because of Jesus.*

*V6 - At just the right time. God stepped into the situation and stopped the plague. At just the right time, God sent Jesus to die for us. Also, David and Israel will be powerless against the plague - until God stepped in. We are powerless against sin - until God stepped in, with Jesus.*

*V7-8 - We can understand someone dying for someone who is righteous or good but Jesus died for sinners (the ungodly - even those who killed Him). Those 70,000 people died because of David doing the wrong thing; although all of them were still sinners in various different ways. But they were not a sacrifice; they were a punishment or consequences. Yet, Jesus, was perfect and sinless and He died for all sinners - and had their sin dumped on him. The 70,000 in a way had David's sin dumped on them; but they were not perfect and innocent like Jesus!*

*V9 - We are justified (just as if we never sinned) by Jesus' blood and saved from God's wrath. The rest of the people of Israel were saved from the plague - by the sacrifice David made at Mount Moriah. People (if they care to believe in Jesus) are saved from the plague of sin by the sacrifice Jesus made.*

V10 - David and Israel were reconciled with God because of the death of the David's sacrifice. We are reconciled with God through Jesus' death and have eternal life through Jesus' resurrection.

V11 - David worshipped God at the altar he built - we can worship God and boast of His love for us, in Jesus.

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 24:1-25?

*God's wrath is satisfied*

*God's amazing grace in dealing with David. God didn't wait for David to get his act together; God dealt with David with his warts and all; and often applied grace upon grace.*

*David's life is a bit like the story of Pilgrim's progress. David is in the Bible so we learn from his mistakes and so we see God's abundant grace.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*In the same way that God's wrath with David was satisfied by sacrifice - God's wrath with our sin, is satisfied by Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus's ultimate sacrifice brought to an end the sacrifice for sin - Jesus said "It is finished" - and the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom.*

*The location of the threshing floor:*

- a. *Is the location of Abraham's proposed sacrifice of his only son, Isaac - which points to God's only Son being sacrificed.*
- b. *Is the location of Solomon's temple. Remember, Jesus is the temple that is destroyed and rebuilt in 3 days (John 2:19)*

➔ **How does this passage apply to your life?**

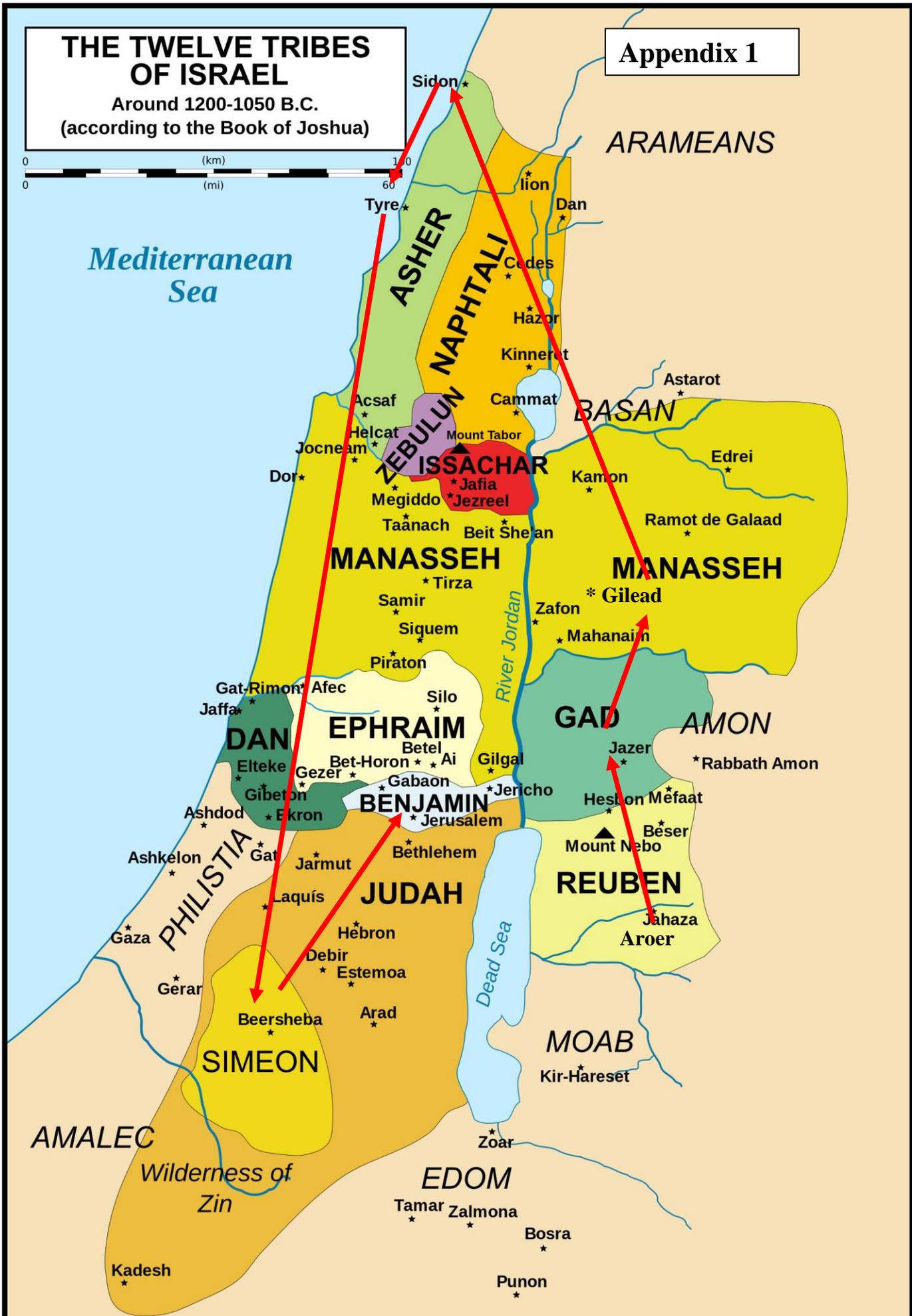
- a. *Examine our hearts for pride - because pride comes before a fall.*
- b. *Remember our pride, our sin, our selfishness - will have consequences for others, who are innocent.*
- c. *Following Jesus will cost us something - it will mean giving up things we are overly proud and selfish about; it will mean looking beyond ourselves!*

- d. *Be quick to confess our sins to God - and He will forgive us. Our sins are never too bad that we can't come to God with heartfelt sincere repentance.*
- e. *Remember that God cannot look upon sin; it makes Him angry.*
- f. *Remember our sin has to be dealt with; it cost Jesus His life.*
- g. *Remember to thank God for His grace and mercy in sending Jesus!*

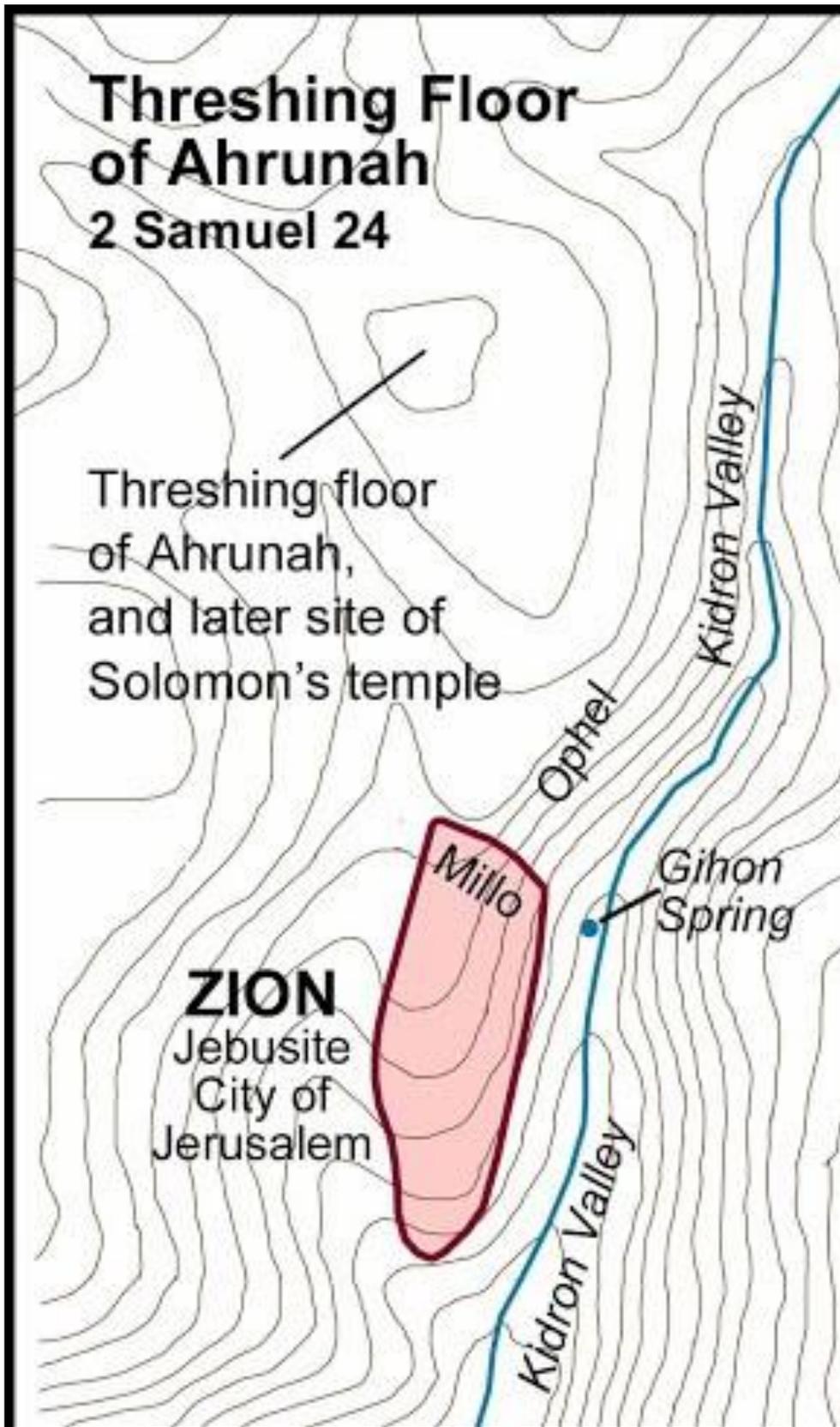
**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*v24 - <sup>24</sup>But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."*

**Finish in prayer:** Confessing our sins that were put on Jesus. Thanking God that He allowed Jesus, the one without sin, to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21)



## Appendix 2



**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke**  
**September/October 2020**

**Resources:**

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

The Message of Samuel (Mary J. Evans)

The Books of Samuel (Keil and Delitzsch)

**Notes/Prayer Points**