

Something to Build After a Plague

2 Sam 24:10-14

10 And David's heart smote him after that **he had numbered the people**. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for **I have done very foolishly**.

11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: **let us fall now into the hand of the LORD**; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

I. Introduction

1. Let us talk about offerings for a moment. Not because we are getting ready to receive one, but for the purpose of understanding a biblical principal behind the giving of sacrificial, from-the-heart, offerings.
2. Exodus 25:1-9 lists several kinds of offerings the Israelites were asked to give: **gold, silver, brass, colored cloth, animal skins, spices, oil, incense, precious stones**. These offerings were to given willingly with their heart.
3. But even reason the **offerings** the Lord asked the people to give these things, was with the **pattern of the tabernacle** in mind.
*Ex 25:9 According to all that I shew thee, **after the pattern of the tabernacle**, and the pattern of all the **instruments** thereof, even so shall ye make it.*
4. God showed Moses they were to build a place for Him to dwell in, the Tabernacle, and when they gave these offerings, they were to imagine their small part being a part of something bigger than themselves.
5. Their personal offering was only a small part, but their small part was going to make something big possible—something very big.
6. I just want to use that to introduce this thought today, that our offering was used to build something very big after the plague.
7. I want to preach to you today, Something to Build After the Plague.

II. An offering for the sanctuary

A. After the pattern of the tabernacle

1. If the people gave their part, something God-sized was going to be built as a result.
2. Let's read verse 9 again, but put it together with verse 8:

Ex 25:8-9

*8 And let them **make me a sanctuary**; that I may dwell among them.*

*9 According to all that I shew thee, after the **pattern of the tabernacle**, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.*

3. The reason God asked each one to give an offering was, to support the building of the sanctuary where God desired to dwell among them.
 4. Get this picture in mind:
 - a. The chain of events began with a decision in their minds to make a personal offering,
 - b. They brought that offering to Moses and Aaron,
 - c. It was put together with the offerings everyone else was giving, and
 - d. The end result was the building of the Tabernacle where God dwelled among them.
 5. So at the time when they were at the beginning of contemplating what they would give to God, they were to imagine their small part being part of a big thing—a place where God was going to dwell.
- B. For the kingdom of God
1. Let me help someone. What God was trying to show Israel was, what they chose to give of themselves that day, would create a place where God would dwell.
 2. And from that place blessings would be passed on from there to generation after generation.
 3. So what you choose to give of yourself, your time, your talents, your gifts, and yes, offerings, are building a place for God to dwell.
 4. That is why Jesus said,
Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 5. So with that in mind, what I give of myself in an offering to God, is actually building the kingdom of God! It is **giving with the pattern of the tabernacle in mind** as God said to Moses.
 6. And God promises to take care of us when we do, so don't worry about giving yourself to Him.
- C. My offering for God in my time and place
1. Let's make this very personal. God chose you and me to give ourselves in offering to the kingdom of God with the idea of building the kingdom of God in here Brazil, Indiana through us.
 2. Or if you are listening to this service from some other place, God called you to give yourself to Him so that He might build His kingdom through you where you are.
 3. God wants to build a tabernacle here in this city so He can dwell among the people and extend His kingdom authority that delivers lives from all kinds of satanic bondage.
 4. Whether it is bondage and abuse from evil people, or the chains of drugs holding you in bondage, God has a building plan that involves deliverance.
 5. His kingdom breaks the rule of the adversary and tears down his strongholds.
 6. That is why God wants to build a tabernacle here in this city, so He can give people a new life filled with Holy Ghost power and the joy and peace that comes with His Spirit.
 7. I have seen people, who in the midst of a global pandemic that changed almost everything about the way they live, **still find peace**, good sleep, health, or recovery from sickness.

8. In the midst of the storm, Jesus is their peace. God wants to build that sort of kingdom here through you offering yourself.
9. God wants to build a tabernacle here in this city so people have a place where they can take the step of faith to repent of their sins and be baptized in His name, so their sins will be forgiven and that opens a close relationship with God.
10. Offering ourselves to the kingdom work here, results in God building a dwelling place here where He can accomplish His greatest end-time work.

III. The plague has begun

A. Of biblical proportions

1. With that in mind, that giving to the Lord must have the pattern of the tabernacle in view, let us move to the main story of this message.
2. In 2 Sam 24 and 1 Chron 21, we read about a plague that struck Israel and 70,000 Israelites perished in just three days.
3. Compare that to the three months of the COVID-19 plague that has taken over 97,000 lives in the U.S. as of today.¹
4. This passage in 2 Samuel 24 tells us clearly what caused that plague in Israel, and it is my belief that it will also show us what can be built after the plague is over.
5. You see, there is a reason that the news media uses the phrase, “**a plague of biblical proportions.**” [image of today’s Israel Today article]
6. It is because the Bible speaks about plagues of many kinds, but for the Apostolic believer, we can look to the Bible to learn some lessons of biblical proportions during a plague.

B. David ordering a census

1. One of the last acts of King David was an act of pride. In fact, 1 Chronicles 21:1 tells us it was Satan who provoked David to do it. He ordered a national census so he would know how large Israel was.
2. It wasn’t because there was a war pending and he needed to count the cost of the war. This was a legitimate reason for doing a census.
3. It wasn’t because they were going to divide the territories evenly among God’s people. This was a legitimate reason for doing a census.
4. This was a peacetime, and David wanted to know the number. For David, it was a way of saying, “Look what I have done.”
5. And you can know for sure that when you do something because satan provoked you to do it, it is not for a good reason and it is not going to turn out well.
6. And this numbering of Israel did not turn out well either.

C. When God calls a census

1. When God called for the census, it was to **create some redeeming value**², so God put this into the commandments He gave to Moses:

Ex 30:12-13

¹ <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

² Based on a blog by Prof. Pinchas Shir -May 19, 2020; <https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/in-the-midst-of-the-plague/>

*12 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number [or in other words, any time you count the people], then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; **that there be no plague among them**, when thou numberest them.*

*13 This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, **half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary**: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the **offering of the LORD**.*

2. When a census was taken, it was required that it would include an offering of each person for the sanctuary.
3. The offering was made to support the place where God would dwell and do His work.
4. Do you remember the point we made earlier? When offerings were made, they were to be made with the pattern of the tabernacle in mind.
5. That way, the giving of my part, adds to the kingdom.
6. But when David ordered this census, it was for selfish reasons and did not include the required offering of the half shekel of the sanctuary.
7. The sanctuary was not David's priority in this act, but his own selfish pride to know how many he had.
8. Notice how verse 12 said that when you take the census in the proper way, by everyone giving the sanctuary offering, there would be no plague among them.

D. Falling in God's hand

1. But when David neglected that special offering for the sanctuary with his census, he did not have the pattern of the tabernacle in mind, and the thing became a sin for David:
2 Sam 24:10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.
2. And in an unusual way, God offered David the option to select the result that would follow from his disobedience.
3. Whether it was 7 years of famine, or fleeing 3 months before his enemies, or 3 day's pestilence.
4. Notice how David responded. Now with a tender heart before God, he gave his answer to the prophet:
*2 Sam 24:14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: **let us fall now into the hand of the LORD**; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.*
5. A plague did fall on the land, and 70,000 Israelites died in those three days.
6. There is something important to see in that verse that we cannot just jump past.
7. David called that place they were in in the midst of the plague, "the hand of the LORD."
8. So when we were in the midst of a global pandemic called Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19, we have fallen into the hand of the LORD.
9. Do you remember a few weeks ago when we preached about being a marred vessel in the hands of the Potter?
10. That is where we have been all along in the midst of this thing we call a pandemic—in the hand of the LORD.
11. He is taking care of us people!

E. A place of mercy

1. Then the Lord put an unusual pause on the plague and allowed David to see something awesome and fearful for the eyes to behold.
1 Chron 21:16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.
 2. At this place, the plague was put on pause in an unusual and dramatic, fearful way.
 3. And at that place, David repented before the Lord.
 4. And at that place, which David discovered was a threshing floor that belonged to a man named Araunah, God gave David a command.
 5. And if he followed the command at that place, **the pause in the plague would become the END of the plague.**
2 Sam 24:17-18
17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: ...
 6. David's pride had gotten the best of him and he completely neglected to honor the dwelling place of God with the half shekel of the sanctuary for each person.
 7. Remember, God had wanted the offering to be made according to the pattern of the tabernacle because God wanted to dwell among His people.
 8. So when David neglected God's pattern, instead of God dwelling among His people with His abundant mercy as He desired, it became a time of great loss of life through plague and judgment.
 9. So read on:
2 Sam 24:17-18
17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.
18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.
 10. Build an altar of sacrifice on the threshingfloor!
 11. Oh my, how that will preach!
 12. A threshing floor was the place where the fruits of the harvest were gathered and processed.
- F. God called for sacrifice
1. And it was there that God called for a sacrifice.
 2. Then Araunah, the owner of the place, saw the angel of the LORD, and he saw David and his men there, he offered to donate the threshing floor to David, and also donate oxen for the sacrifice and wood for the fire.
 3. But David had learned his lesson. When God calls for an offering, you don't neglect that offering! It is far too costly.
2 Sam 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but 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. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
 4. If you remember, the commandment required a half shekel offering, but David paid Araunah fifty shekels, 100 times what was required of him.
 5. That is what offering of yourself means. Giving more than just what was required.

6. And then he obeyed the Lord:
2 Sam 24:25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.
7. What had started all of this was that David neglected to provide for the dwelling place that God desired to have among His people.
8. But now, David paid the price for a place called the threshing floor of Araunah, and there he build an altar and offered sacrifices unto God as offerings and peace offerings.
9. Peace with God in a plague is a good feeling!
10. Being in the hands of God during a plague is a good feeling!

IV. Conclusion

1. I want to close on one final thought. First, let me mention that Araunah is referred to as Ornan in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles.
2. So with that fact in mind, please notice what else was built on that very spot by David's son, Solomon:
2 Chron 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.
3. God wanted a dwelling place, and when David made the appropriate sacrifice as required by the Lord, the place was for building the famous tabernacle of Solomon was established.
4. And it was for generations to come over the next 1000 years, that the place that was Araunah's threshing floor, that place where the plague was stopped, became the place God chose to build His dwelling place.
5. Even Jesus went to that place where the temple was built. God became flesh and dwelled among His people:
John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
6. And it was not far from the temple, on that mount called Moriah, that a cross was raised that Jesus hung upon, to draw all men to Him:
John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.
7. So God had His desire fulfilled. The sacrifice was made and God dwelled among His people.
8. So we are at a time when a plague is ending, and it calls for sacrifices to build that place where God wants to draw all people unto Him.
9. During the weeks of quarantine, we have been restricted from going out and doing the sacrifices for the kingdom, but now that it is over, I believe God is calling for harvest.
10. The altar that David build for sacrifice on the threshing floor, marked the end of the plague.
11. But after the plague was over, the temple of God was built for God to dwell in.
12. And there is a work that God wants His church to be about to build something for Him following this pandemic.
13. Our offering of ourselves into the hands of God, is going to build something very big after the plague.