

## 2 Samuel 24

This chapter concludes with King David purchasing a threshing floor from Araunah (or Ornan) a Gentile Jebusite. There David builds an altar to perform a sacrifice to plead for mercy from the Lord

The location of the threshing floor has tremendous significance, as we learn from 2 Chronicles 3:1. It is on Mount Moriah, the promontory overlooking Jerusalem, and the same place where Abraham went to sacrifice his son Isaac. As we know, God himself provided a lamb to take the place of Isaac on the altar. God's grace prevailed and the terrible knife raised over Isaac never fell.

It is also no accident that a threshing floor occupies the site. Matthew 3:12 pictures judgment in the act of threshing: "His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable

**September 8, 2021**

fire." But it's also on a threshing floor where Boaz covers Ruth with the corner of his cloak, putting her under his care and protection. So again there is both judgment and mercy.

This spot is of course where Solomon built his temple and where it rose again after the captivity. Today the Muslim Dome of the Rock occupies the Temple Mount. One day the Lord will return at the Mount of Olives across the valley to execute judgment on the earth.

Jerusalem seems to be the meeting place between God's judgment and His mercy. This was never more true than when God's Son hung on the cross, bearing all judgment in His body so God's mercy could extend to sinners.

### **Questions for study and discussion:**

1. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1. What gives David the idea to conduct a census?
2. Do you have any ideas why Joab opposes the census?
3. The people of Israel have been counted before. Why is it a sin for David to conduct a census? (See Exodus 30:12-13 for one possible answer.)

4. Why does David's regret in verse 10 not cause God to relent?
5. The judgment for David's sin falls on his people, not on him personally. Can people we love, like our family or our assembly, sometimes pay for our sins?
6. Why does David not accept the gift from Araunah? Can you think of similar passages in scripture?
7. It is natural to think that the pestilence is too great a punishment for a fairly innocent infraction. What does it tell us about God's sovereignty and how we can hope to please Him?