

Audio Transcript of Sermon
October 31, 2020
David-The Illegal Census

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. Recently in our study of David we saw how he pushed back on a rebellion by Absalom that was followed almost immediately by a rebellion from Sheba. Because of his own sins, and the sins of Saul, Israel had gone through a period of upheaval where the people were unsure who their king would be. But there came a time when David knew God had delivered him from the hand of his enemies, and he recorded his thoughts down in a song recorded for us in second Samuel twenty-two beginning with verse one.

2 Samuel 22:1-51

1. And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

2. And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

David saw God as a source of strength, as solid as a rock. To this day, rocks are seen as a source of strength. We think of Gibraltar, the white cliffs of Dover, Mount Kilimanjaro, the Rocky Mountains, Andes Mountains, Mount Everest, solid towering figures over the nearby lands. Similarly, David knew he could trust God even more. He knew God would provide safety and salvation, and that even when situations looked bleak, he would be saved from his enemies. David shared that God always heard him when he was in distress. Verse three.

3. The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

4. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

5. When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

6. The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

7. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

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David saw the interventions of God, how God would fiercely protect him, even fighting battles for him when necessary. Verse eight.

8. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

9. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

10. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

11. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

12. And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

13. Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.

14. The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.

15. And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.

David knew that God used the creation to protect David. God knew earth better than any person and used its topography and geographic features to save David and position David for victory. Verse sixteen.

16. And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

17. He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;

When David should have been overpowered by his enemy, it was God who delivered David from his enemy. When David killed Goliath, it was God who set up a course of events that led to David's deliverance from Goliath. When enemies tried to stop David in his tracks, God kept David moving. Verse eighteen.

18. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.

19. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

20. He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

David knew that God's blessing was a result of David doing what God needed him to do. He knew as he obeyed God, he would be blessed. He also knew in doing what God needed him to do, that he did not disobey God. Verse twenty-one.

21. The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

22. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

23. For all his judgments were before me: and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them.

24. I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.

25. Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.

David knew that God showed mercy to those who also show mercy and that for those who act in an upright manner, God acts upright towards them. David shared that those who act in a deceitful manner, God will fight them and prevail. God will save humble people and will deflate the ego of the proud. Humility is a characteristic that needs to be ascribed by others. When a person shares that they themselves are humble or that their opinion is humble, humility is just an illusion. Verse twenty-six.

26. With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

27. With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

28. And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down.

We live in a world that brings darkness because we live in a world that is a world of sin. Sin removes life and joy from the world and replaces it with death and darkness. It is God who fuels our lamps and illuminates the pathway our lives need to take moving forward. It is with this illumination that David knew he was able to secure military victories and do the near impossible. Just like God helped David, God will defend all who trust in him. Verse twenty-nine.

29. For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

**30. For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.
31. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.**

David acknowledged that God was his strength and power and his path towards perfection. God is also our strength and power and provides our path towards perfection. God gave David the ability to do so much more than David ever could have imagined, and He will do the same for us as well. God knows our life much better than we know our life and will equip us to handle whatever we will face in life. Because David was king and would need to fight in battle, God prepared David to be the ultimate warrior, and everyone, even those who despised David, respected his military abilities. Verse thirty-two.

**32. For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?
33. God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.
34. He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places.
35. He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.**

Through God's gentleness, David was made great. David knew he made many mistakes along the path of his life, and many of those mistakes, sins, caused the problems that David had in his life. He knew that God protected him in good times and bad and allowed David to destroy his enemies. David knew the military victories he had were the result of this blessing from God, and that once God determined that David would defeat an enemy, the enemy would be totally unable to be victorious. Verse thirty-six.

**36. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.
37. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.
38. I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.
39. And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.
40. For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.
41. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me.**

42. They looked, but there was none to save; even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

David knew through this blessing from God that he was able to utterly destroy his enemies making his enemies to be no more than the dust of the earth. When the people of Israel caused their own problems and created additional problems for David, even then God protected David. Verse forty-three.

43. Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad.

44. Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen: a people which I knew not shall serve me.

Even foreigners understood not to challenge David because of the blessing of God. In all that David did, he knew that it was God who avenged David, that it was God who defeated the enemies, that it was God who magnified David. David knew through his imperfect life, that God had showed him mercy and was his salvation. Verse forty-five.

45. Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

46. Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

47. The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

48. It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me,

49. And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

50. Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

51. He is the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

Just like God showed mercy to David and was his salvation, so God is our salvation, and we can stand strong knowing that we have the power of God behind us to defeat the evil we have in our life. All of the evil we have in our life comes from Satan who tries to defeat us. When we face challenges in our life we

must always transcend the physical realizing our enemy is not the person we see or the situation we face, but Satan and his demons. To protect ourselves from the evils of Satan, we must be clothed in truth, protected by righteousness, and prepared to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God. It is through prayer that faith protects us from evil and the word of God focuses our thoughts on salvation. Paul wrote of this in Ephesians chapter six beginning with verse ten.

Ephesians 6:10-18

10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Just as David knew God shows mercy to the merciful, we must be merciful to others by understanding that without God we are nothing, and giving patience to others that we know God has generously given to us in our shortcomings. Everything we do is to be done in the name of Jesus giving thanks to God. Colossians three verse twelve.

Colossians 3:12-17

12. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

- 14. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.**
- 15. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**
- 16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**
- 17. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

In a time when people are petty and have feelings that are easily hurt, it is easy to make enemies. If we want mercy from God we must have mercy for our enemies even when we know they are using us. Matthew five verse forty-three.

Matthew 5:43-48

- 43. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.**
- 44. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**
- 45. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**
- 46. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?**
- 47. And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?**
- 48. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

As we live our life we will encounter people like David did, who do not have faith, who because they lack faith will be more easily swayed by our adversary, Satan. Even Paul in writing to the church at Thessalonica acknowledged that he encountered people without faith who he described as unreasonable and wicked. We will be kept from evil that these people would bring to us through the mercy of God. Let's read what was recorded in second Thessalonians chapter three beginning with verse one.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

- 1. Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:**
- 2. And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.**
- 3. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.**
- 4. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.**
- 5. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.**

The final victory we will be given will be our victory over death, that comes through Jesus Christ. Just like God worked with David to get through the challenges of his life, God and Jesus will work with us to get us through the challenges of our life today, and we know in the future if we endure to the end we will be given eternal life. Second Timothy one verse eight.

2 Timothy 1:8-10

- 8. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;**
- 9. Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,**
- 10. But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:**

We can take confidence that like David, we will never be abandoned by God, When God is for us it is of no consequence to us if somebody is against us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, and just like David was victorious in battle, we will be victorious in life. Romans chapter eight beginning with verse thirty-one.

Romans 8:31-39

- 31. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**

- 32. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**
- 33. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.**
- 34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**
- 35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**
- 36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**
- 37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**
- 38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,**
- 39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Our key to this protection in life comes through Jesus, who died so that we can have eternal life and requires us to not only believe, but to practice the truth. You see, if we believe but do not practice the truth, we believe as the demons who tremble with fear. By practicing the truth and enduring to the end we can take great confidence that through Jesus we will be saved. John chapter three beginning with verse sixteen.

John 3:16-21

- 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**
- 17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**
- 18. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**
- 19. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**
- 20. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.**

21. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Returning to the life of David, David knew that while he had his challenges in life, God protected him, and blessed him with people who fought with David. Second Samuel twenty-three beginning with verse one.

2 Samuel 23:1-39

- 1. Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,**
- 2. The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.**
- 3. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.**
- 4. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.**
- 5. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.**
- 6. But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:**
- 7. But the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.**

Memorialized in second Samuel were the names of David's mighty men and a highlight of their accomplishments. One was able to fight and kill hundreds. The others fought the Philistines in various circumstances. Verse eight.

- 8. These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.**
- 9. And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:**

10. He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11. And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

12. But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

13. And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.

14. And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

15. And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

16. And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

17. And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

David was strong and courageous and led others to be strong and courageous. Man after man who fought with David was known for what they did, and how they prevailed. Verse eighteen.

18. And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three.

19. Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the first three.

20. And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

21. And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

22. These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.

23. He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard.

There were many others who also contributed and included in second Samuel is a listing of the most notable. While we don't know exactly why their names are listed, we know these were also mighty men. Verse twenty-four.

24. Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

25. Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,

26. Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

27. Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

28. Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

29. Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

30. Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

31. Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

32. Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,

33. Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

34. Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

35. Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

36. Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

37. Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,

38. Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,

39. Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

With all of the mighty men, you would think that David would have unwavering confidence in God. Yet, a census would show that even with the most beautiful of words in the song of David we read today, that David at times lacked confidence. Once again Israel was challenged and instead of trusting in God, David trusted in

his men, and he ordered a census to count the men of Israel. David overlooked that if God would defend him, the number of men would be of no consequence to God. David learned that one point three million men would be ready to fight for him. He seemed to forget that if God would fight for him, God is all he would need. Second Samuel chapter twenty-four verse one.

2 Samuel 24:1-25

- 1. And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.**
- 2. For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, 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.**
- 3. And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?**
- 4. Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.**
- 5. And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer:**
- 6. Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon,**
- 7. And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba.**
- 8. So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.**
- 9. And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.**

Once David heard the number of men available to fight, he realized he forgot to trust God, and asked God to remove his sin. God would do that after providing a consequence to David. Through Gad the seer, David was asked to choose a consequence. Would David choose to be pursued for three days by his enemies, would he want seven years of famine to come to the land, or would he want three days of deadly disease to strike the land? David chose to be in the hand of God for the punishment knowing that God would have mercy on him, and God

brought three days of deadly disease, causing the death of seventy thousand men. Verse ten.

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.

15. So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

When God's angel was preparing to strike Jerusalem to destroy it, God relented with his anger while the angel was at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. To commemorate God's mercy, David had an altar built on this spot where he offered a sacrifice, and the time of trouble left Israel. Verse sixteen.

16. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

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.

19. And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

20. And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

21. And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

22. And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

23. All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.

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.

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.

David was beginning to age and would soon die, but not before there would be another power struggle. We'll read more about this power struggle and who became the next king of Israel when we meet again.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together next time on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.