

#575 Ornan's Threshingfloor – Men of War and the House of God, part 4, David numbered the Men of War of the Sword, then chose the Judgment of the Sword of the Lord

1 Chronicles 21:1, 5-14 (KJV) And SATAN STOOD UP AGAINST ISRAEL, AND PROVOKED DAVID TO NUMBER ISRAEL.

5 And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand **MEN THAT DREW SWORD**: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand **MEN THAT DREW SWORD**.

6 But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

7 **And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel.**

8 And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

9 And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying,

10 Go and tell David, saying, **Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee THREE things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.**

11 So Gad came to David, and said unto him, **Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee**

12 Either THREE years' famine; or THREE months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that THE SWORD OF THINE ENEMIES overtaketh thee; or else THREE DAYS THE SWORD OF THE LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

13 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: **LET ME FALL NOW INTO THE HAND OF THE LORD;** for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man.

14 So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.



Plague of death in 1 Chronicles 21

Key Understanding: David's choices of threes. David had three choices of threes before him, (i) three years of famine, (ii) three months of the sword of enemies overtaking Israel, or (iii) three days of the sword of the Lord. David chose the third of the three.

David's sin had to do with the numbering of the Men of War of the Sword, and the Lord's choices included Israel falling to the Sword of its enemies, or receiving judgment by the Sword of the Lord. We have capitalized the word Sword to make the point that obviously the theme of the Sword dominates the events that would lead to the building of the House of God.



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