

"David's Choice."

1-Chronicles 21:1; 7+14;

And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

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

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

And the Lord spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying,

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 to thee.

So Gad came to David and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, choose thee,

1-Either three years famine;

2-Or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of ~~the~~ thine enemies overtaketh thee.

3-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 coast of Israel.

Now therefore advise thy self what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me now fall into the hand of the Lord; for very great are his mercies but let me not fall into the hand of Man.

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

Hebrews 10:31;

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

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- 1-David's sin in numbering Israel; Wherein was the sin of numbering the people.
  - 1-The sin was not in the mere act of numbering because Israel had been numbered three times before. Numbered by the command of the Lord. Exod.30:11-16; 38:26; Numb.1:2; 26:1-4;63-65.
- 2-David took this census:
  - 1-Without Divine authority or sanction.
  - 2-From motives of pride and ostentation.
- 3-The taking of the census:
  - 1-Required 9 months and 20 days.
  - 2-1,300,000 men capable of serving in war.
- 4-Why did David take the census?
  - 1-Likely contemplating schemes of foreign conquest.
  - 2-At least, to let other nations know of Israel's great power.
- 5-In taking this census:
  - 1-David forgot the command of Moses or ignored the command.
  - 2-Exodus 30:12-13;  
Among them that are numbered every one shall pay a half shekel tax which shall be for the offering of the Lord.
  - 3-In its omission:  
David invaded the rights of the supreme King of Israel, and set aside a positive command of God.
- 6-David's choice:
  - 1-Three years famine:
    - 1-His own wealth would have secured his and his own family's support.
  - 2-Three months war before his enemies:
    - 1-His own personal safety was in no danger, because there was already an ordinance preventing him from going to battle.
  - 3-Three days of pestilence in the land:
    - 1-David showed the greatness of his mind in choosing the pestilence to which he and his household were equally exposed with his sub.

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1-It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb.10:31; Let me fall now into the hand of the Lord. Foris great are his mercies. 1-Chron. 21:13.

2-Let me fall into the hand of God; but let me not fall into the hand of man.

1-David had good reason for the choice he made. He knew well from his own treatment of defeated enemies: 1-Chron.20:1-3.

2-David's treatment to captured enemies:

1-Under David, Joab led forth the army and wasted the country of Ammon and besieged Rabbah..

2-David went down and took the crown of their king and put it on his own head.

David brought out the people:

1-Gave them saws and harrows of iron and axes and made slaves out of them.

3-Why would David choose to fall into the Hand of God rather than into the hand of man

1-David knew of the righteousness of God and the unrighteousness of man.

1-We cannot always be sure that righteousness will guide human proceedings

2-Many men are utterly regardless of what is right where their own interest is.

3-Even the best of men are liable to fail in respect to a pure and constant regard for rectitude.

2-David knew of the knowledge and wisdom of God versus the ignorance and folly of men.

1-Much of the misconduct and unworthiness of men springs from ignorance and folly.

3-David knew of the power of God versus the weakness of men.

1-Men are often incapable of doing the good they know and even strongly desire to do; and their weakness often causes them to do mischief while endeavouring to do good. God is Almighty to effect what his mercy, and wisdom, and rectitude prompt.

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4-David knew of "The relation of God to good men."

1-He knew for a certainty that God would honor those who honor him.

2-He knew that God was able to turn all things, including his own chastisement of them, to their good. Rom.8:28.

1-A contrast of the two fallings into the hands of God. David:

Let me fall into the hands of God. The other character:

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

1-The one falls voluntarily into God's hands.

1-The other falls compulsorily with a compunctious feeling.

2-The one falls into His hands in humble penitence..

1-The other, in hardened impenitence.

2-David:

Was sincerely and deeply repentant of his sin.

3-But in the case supposed in our Epistle the sinner:

Willfully and knowingly persists in known and terrible sin, and is arrested by the Omnipotent hands as a rebel.

3-The one falls into God's hands firmly trusting in his mercy;

1-The other deeply dreading his wrath.

2-If your are guilty:

1-It is better to trust God for mercy than to trust man.

2-It is better to trust him for deliverance than men.

4-The one falls into his chastising hand;

1-The other into his avenging hand.

2-Think:

What is your relation to God?

We must fall into his hands somehow—shall it be? Humble trust or abject terror?