

# APRIL 10

## Read 2 Samuel 24–1 Kings 1

### CHAPTER 24

**A**ND 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.

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.

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.

## 1 KINGS CHAPTER 1

**N**OW king David was old *and* stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat.

2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin:

and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat.

3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

4 And the damsel *was* very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

5 ¶ Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also *was* a very goodly *man*; and *his mother* bare him after Absalom.

7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped *him*.

8 But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which *belonged* to David, were not with Adonijah.

9 And Adonijah slew sheep and

oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which *is* by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

11 ¶ Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth *it* not?

12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.

13 Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?

14 Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

15 ¶ And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.

16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?

17 And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, *saying*, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.

18 And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest *it* not:

19 And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.

20 And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

21 Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

22 ¶ And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

23 And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet.

And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.

24 And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?

25 For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

26 But me, *even* me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.

27 Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed *it* unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

28 ¶ Then king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.

29 And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,

30 Even as I sware unto thee by

the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.

31 Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

32 ¶ And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king.

33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:

34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so *too*.

37 As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.

38 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.

39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

41 ¶ And Adonijah and all the guests that *were* with him heard *it* as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore *is this* noise of the city being in an uproar?

42 And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou *art* a valiant man, and bringest good tidings.

43 And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king.

44 And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule:

45 And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This *is* the noise that ye have heard.

46 And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom.

47 And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.

48 And also thus said the king, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which hath given *one* to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing *it*.

49 And all the guests that *were* with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.

50 ¶ And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

51 And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword.

52 And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

53 So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 24 we read of David's sin in numbering the people. This is another example of God permitting Satan to work so that the purposes of the Lord might be fulfilled.

It was probably pride that lay behind David's desire to number the people. He had won a number of great victories and perhaps wanted to bask in the glory of his success. There was certainly nothing wrong with a census, since the people had often been numbered during the national history, but we must keep in mind that a census that praised man would never glorify God. The factor to be considered here is Exodus 30:11-16. In connection with a census, there was always the matter of redemption money that was to be given by each one numbered. A silver shekel was a reminder that they were the Lord's purchased possessions. Exodus 30:12 warns that God would plague the nation and thin out the ranks if the people ignored their redemption money. We will notice that this is exactly what happened.

David realizes his sin in numbering the people and confesses the sin to the Lord, but his conviction and repentance came too late. God did permit David to choose his own discipline, and his choice showed the love and faith of his heart. He chose to fall into the hands of the merciful Lord, rather than into the hands of men. From the morning until the evening God's angel came again to plague the people, and in one day's time 70,000 Jews were slain. David cried out for the people and desired that God's hand be against him. However, we must remember that God had a definite cause against the entire nation (chapter 24:1) and was using David's sin as an opportunity to judge the entire nation.

I Kings 1 begins the study of the life and reign of Solomon, David's son, and successor to the throne of Israel. In David we had a type of Christ in His humiliation, exile, and rejection; but in Solomon we see the Prince of Peace (the name Solomon means "peaceable") reigning in glory and splendor over His people. David made the conquests that enabled Solomon to live and reign in peace and prosperity.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins" (Proverbs 10:12).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 8 (found on page 11).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

**TONY DE LOS SANTOS JR.**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

**JOHN AND ADDIE WARNER**

## HYMN FOR TODAY

**O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED**

**Attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux,**

**1091-1153**

**Translated into German by Paul Gerhardt,**

**1607-1676**

**Translated into English by**

**James W. Alexander, 1804-1859**

It is difficult to join our fellow believers each Lenten season in the singing of this passion hymn without being moved almost to tears. For more than 800 years these worshipful lines from the heart of a devoted medieval monk have portrayed for parishioners a memorable view of the suffering Saviour.

This remarkable text has been generally attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, the very admirable abbot of a monastery in France. Forsaking the wealth and ease of a noble family for a life of simplicity, holiness, prayer, and ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of others, Bernard was one of the most influential church leaders of his day. Martin Luther wrote of him, "He was the best monk that ever lived, whom I admire beyond all the rest put together."

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" was part of the final portion of a lengthy poem that addressed the various parts of Christ's body as He suffered on the cross. The seven sections of the poem considered His feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, and face. The stanzas of the hymn were translated into German in the 17th century and from German into English in the 19th century. God has preserved this exceptional hymn, which has led Christians through the centuries to more ardent worship of His Son.

*O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame  
weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded with thorns Thy only crown;  
how art Thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and  
scorn!  
How does that visage languish which once was bright  
as morn!*

*What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners'  
gain:  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly  
pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
look on me with Thy favor; vouch-safe to me Thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest  
Friend,  
for this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever! And, should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee!*

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1491 B.C.**

**THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF THE TAKING OF THE LAMB TO THE PASSOVER.**

Exodus 12:3.

**587 B.C.**

**THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF THE VISION OF THE FUTURE TEMPLE.** Ezekiel 40:1.

**1451 B.C.**

**THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF THE CROSSING OF JORDAN BY THE ISRAELITES.** Joshua 4:19.

**787 A.D.**

**THE DATE OF THE USE OF THE FIRST CHURCH ORGAN IN FRANCE.**

All of us should thank God for the musical instruments with which we can praise the Lord. Read the 150th Psalm. Write a note of appreciation to your church organist.

**1829**

**GENERAL BOOTH WAS BORN.**

General Booth was the founder of the Salvation Army. Once he sent a telegram to the Salvation Army convention when he could not attend because of old age and ill health. On the telegram, he simply wrote, "Others." His life was lived in service for others. May ours be likewise.

**1830**

**THE BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES TRUETT.**

Charles Truett was the father of the famous George W. Truett.

**CHRISTMAS EVANS MADE A WRITTEN COVENANT WITH GOD.**

On this date Christmas Evans made a written covenant with God. Christmas Evans was a one-eyed, circuit riding preacher. Anointed with the Holy Spirit while riding on his horse one day, his last words were, "Preach the blood in the basin." He lost his eyesight the day of his conversion, as he was stoned by his old crowd.

**1790**

**THE NATIONAL PATENT LAW WAS ENACTED.**

**ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY, THE FIRST NEW YORK TRIBUNE WAS PUBLISHED. 1903 THE BIRTHDAY OF CLARE BOOTHE LUCE.**

**1946**

**PRESIDENT TRUMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EGG ROLLING CONTEST ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN BECAUSE OF A FOOD SHORTAGE.**



## **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1872**

**FIRST NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTION** met in New Orleans. Frederick Douglass was elected president.

**1877**

**FEDERAL TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.** Democrats took over state government.

**1938**

**NANA ANNOR ADJAYE, PAN-AFRICANIST, DIES** in W. Nzima, Ghana.

**1958**

**DEATH OF W.C. HNADY** (84), composer and musician, in New York City.

**1968**

**U.S. CONGRESS PASSED CIVIL RIGHTS BILL** banning racial discrimination in sale or rental of approximately 80 per cent of the nation's housing. President Johnson signed bill on April 11. Bill also made it a crime to interfere with civil rights workers and to cross state lines to incite a riot.

# THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

## Psalm 30

**AUTHOR: David**

**THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:**

David had committed a sin. He had numbered the people. Now when a leader numbered the people, this was to prepare them for war. God was not in this numbering and offered David three choices of punishment: (1) seven years of famine, (2) three months of defeat, or (3) three days of pestilence or sickness. David chose the latter, whereupon 70,000 people died. David himself became ill. He built an altar on the threshingfloor of Araunah (perhaps this was the same spot as was Mt. Moriah where Abraham offered Isaac, and some even think it was the location of Calvary). There at the altar David is forgiven for his sin. He dedicates this altar and writes the 30th Psalm. The 30th Psalm is a Psalm of dedication of the altar built on the threshingfloor of Araunah. Can you imagine David with the blood of 70,000 people on his hands begging God for forgiveness? With this image in your mind read the 30th Psalm.

**THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:**

The Jews used this Psalm for dedication services of synagogues and other important buildings. It was also used at what was called the feast of dedication, which was a feast corresponding with our early December and lasting for eight days, during which the people purged the temple. This Psalm was used while eating and singing at this feast and purging.

## **MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 8 (for review):**

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

### **CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**

#### **Both physical and spiritual death.**

( ) Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

#### **A place of eternal death.**

( ) Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **A place of no mercy.**

( ) Luke 16:24

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

#### **A place of torment.**

( ) Revelation 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

#### **A place of everlasting punishment.**

( ) Matthew 25:46

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.