

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was wrong with David's numbering the people?
2. Why did God impose a punishment that was directed toward the people instead of David only?
3. Why did David say "search my heart" in verse 23 after saying "thou understandest my thought afar off" in Psalm 139:2?

### SUMMARY:

After David had sinned and was convicted and recognized his sin, he chose to fall into the hands of God rather than the hands of men. This indicated that he had past experiences of God's mercy that far surpassed the mercy of man. He says of God's mercy: "For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds." (Psalm 108:4)

Fortunately God's mercy is offered to us today as it is to men of all generations. "The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and his righteousness unto children's children." (Psalm 103:17)

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

June 15, 2003

Second Quarter

### THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOICE

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**LESSON TEXT:** *2 Samuel 24:1-25; Psalm 139:1-4, 23-24*

**LESSON SETTING:** David takes a census of the people.

**TIME:** Approximately 1017 B.C.

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- I. DAVID'S FOOLISH ACTION.** 2 Samuel 24:1-9
  - A. Displeases God. Psalm 7:11; 1 Chronicles 21:1
  - B. David's Pride (vs. 3) Proverbs 28:25; Isaiah 2:12
  - C. Forsakes Wise Counsel (vs. 4) 2 Chronicles 10:8; Proverbs 12:15
  - D. Numbers People. 1 Chronicles 21:5-6
- II. GOD'S DISCIPLINE.** 2 Samuel 24:10-17
  - A. Condemnation (vs. 10) Psalm 31:10
  - B. Punishment. Isaiah 13:11; James 1:15
  - C. Vengeance (vs. 15) Hebrews 10:30
  - D. God's Mercy (vs. 16) Nehemiah 9:17, 31; Psalm 103:11
- III. DAVID'S OBEDIENCE.** 2 Samuel 24:18-25
  - A. Builds Altar. Judges 6:26
  - B. Acceptable Offering. Hebrews 9:13-14; 13:16
- IV. GOD'S KNOWLEDGE.** Psalm 139:1-4; 23-24
  - A. Searches Hearts (vs. 1, 23) 1 Chronicles 28:9; John 2:25; Hebrews 4:12-13
  - B. Spiritual Testing. Luke 6:48; 1 Peter 4:12
  - C. Shows Right Way (vs. 24) Isaiah 30:21; John 16:13

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *SEARCH ME, O GOD, AND KNOW MY HEART: TRY ME, AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS.* Psalm 139:23

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Psalm 33:1-22

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Psalm 104:1-9; Isaiah 43:11-15;  
Matthew 19:26

**QUARTERLY THEME:** David The King

**TOPIC:** OUR GREAT GOD

**INTRODUCTION:**

Psalm 33 contains a summary of God's greatness. It is a call to worship and lists some of the reasons why God is worthy of our worship.

The whole purpose of man's being is to praise God. Therefore when David devoted this entire psalm to this theme, as he did of many of his songs, he is pointing man back to the basic reality of life, the very reason for his existence.

The psalm points out clearly that among the wonderful attributes of God are righteousness, truth, justice and goodness. Unworthy as we are of God's attention, there is a constant outpouring of these virtues in our lives as God deals with us on His level and not ours. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts . . . Thoughts of peace and not of evil."

God's marvelous creation, of which we see so small a part, staggers the imagination of finite man—the heavens, the seas, the tremendous powers as yet untapped. This would be reason enough for man to stand in awe of God.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** God, the mighty Creator, is the great deliverer of all who trust in Him.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *THE EYE OF THE LORD IS UPON THEM THAT FEAR HIM, UPON THEM THAT HOPE IN HIS MERCY.* Psalm 33:18

God in heaven keeps a constant surveillance over the affairs and hearts of men. He alone has the final word in the destiny of the human race. David declares that no king is saved because of the size of his army, neither is a mighty man saved because of his strength. Yet this continues to be the popular notion among nations and individuals. "Time and chance happeneth to them all," the Old Testament Preacher states. Chance it may seem to mortal man, but God determines the beginning and the end of each life, and the events in that lifetime He brings about or allows. The Master Designer has woven it all into His plan, working out good from lesser good and even good from evil as He mercifully decrees.

Those who trust His promises purely and simply will find Him their all-sufficiency.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 16 - 22**

- M. God's Greatness in Creation. Psalm 8:1-9
- T. \*God's Greatness in Providence. Psalm 33:1-22
- W. God's Greatness in Might. Isaiah 40:18-26
- T. God's Greatness in Glory. Isaiah 42:1-9
- F. God's Greatness in Mercy. Isaiah 55:1-11
- S. God's Greatness in Love. Ephesians 2:1-10
- S. God's Greatness in Redemption. 1 Peter 1:7-21