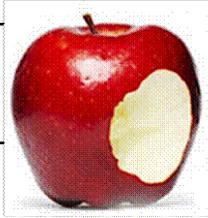


Dealing with *Temptation* And How to Escape

"But after he had taken the census, David's conscience began to bother him. And he said to the LORD, 'I have sinned greatly by taking this census. Please forgive my guilt, LORD, for doing this foolish thing.'" 2 Samuel 24:10 NLT



I. HISTORICAL PURPOSE OF 1&2 Samuel - 1&2 Kings Written

in the middle of the Babylonian exile (562-560 BC). **Readers ask: "WHY are we in exile?"** (2 Kgs. 25:21) **God's answer:** "You and your kings did not live up to your **Covenant** with Me and the **standards** I set for you."

II. MORAL CONTEXT (Key Verse)

God saw in David, a *"man after His own heart,"* (1 Sam. 13:14), who *"will do everything I want him to do!"* (Acts 13:22)

Apply: *God's foreknowledge of ALL of us is a **COMFORT!***

III. DAVID'S KNOWLEDGE BEFORE THIS TEMPTATION

A. **God's STANDARDS** for Israel's king. Deut. 17:14-20

B. **Samuel's SCROLL** of a king's Rights and Duties
From King Saul's anointing. 1 Sam. 10:17, 21, 25

C. **David's 75 Psalms** reflect his **COMMITMENT** to God
Psa. 139:23-24 NLT

Central Lesson

**Resist temptation by daily submitting to God's will.
Allow God's Word to search and cleanse your heart!**

1. GOD IS SOVEREIGN!

- Over Our Covenant Relationship With Him.
- Moses reminded Israel's 2nd generation: Deut. 30:19-20a NLT
- Over God's Creature Satan, "the Tempter."
 - **God never tempts.** Jas. 1:13 NLT
 - **God does discipline Israel.** 24:1 *"Once again..."*
 - 1 Chron. 21:7 NLT *"God was very displeased with the census and He punished Israel for it."* (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - **God used Satan to "incite" (NIV) David.** Compare 2 Sam. 24:1 with 1 Chron. 21:1 (God controls 3 other times) We're in a **spiritual fight**, not flesh-and-blood. Eph. 6:12

2. THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

- David's Deceitful (Lying) Heart: Jeremiah 17:9-10 NLT
- David Wanted God's Will: 2 Samuel 7:11 NLT At the Davidic Covenant: God promised to secure his dynasty. Psalm 139:1 NLT *"O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me."*

- David Took Back Control: 2 Samuel 24:2-41
1 Chron. 21:3 NLT Joab: *"Why must you cause Israel to sin?"*

3. OUR SLIDE INTO SIN!

Defined: "Temptation is the effort of the evil one or of evil men to incite a person to commit sin."

Method: James 1:14-15 NLT *"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."*

- Motives: Heb. 4:12-13
- A national census was legal if Ex. 30:11-16 was followed, for redemption and purity. (Num. 3:40-51)
- This census of "the people" was really a military census of "capable warriors." 2 Sam. 24:9
- Joab's speech suggests it was done due to David's pride. "Keep Israel Great!" 2 Sam. 24:3 (1 Sam. 16:7b)
- God's king was not to turn away "in the smallest way." (Deut. 17:20) 1 Jn. 1:5 NLT

4. OUR SAFETY IN TEMPTATION 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

- David failed to take **God's "way out!"**
2 Sam. 24:4 "the king insisted" didn't listen. Heb. 4:6-7
2 Sam. 24:8 Didn't stop it over 9 months, 20 days

5. OUR SORROW FOR SIN'S COST

- David's conscience bothered him. 2 Sam. 24:10
- *"in distress"* David chose his punishment. 24:11-14
- The plague fit the same route as the census!
- God was merciful in judgment. *"Stop, that's enough!"* David saw the Death Angel! 1 Chron. 21:15-16 at floor, in air: "Deep Distress"; 2 Sam. 24:17 *"I am the one who has sinned and done wrong!"*

6. OUR SACRIFICE OF SURRENDER!

- **Presentation of our BODY.** Rom. 12:1-2
1 Chron. 21:16 NLT "burlap," "fell face down on the ground"
- **Pattern of the SOUL (Heart)** Psa. 119:11
- **Practice of the SPIRIT** Gal. 5:5,16-26
1 Chron. 21:26-27 **Fire from heaven!** Sword sheathed!

7. THE SITE OF SALVATION Araunah's threshing floor memorialized as a HOLY PLACE! 1 Chron. 22:1 **What's Yours?**

Central Lesson

**Resist temptation by daily submitting to God's will.
Allow God's Word to search and cleanse your heart!**

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.