

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: May 24, 2023
2 Samuel 23:1-24:17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17

1. What happened in our last Bible Study?
 - a. Israel went to battle with the Philistines again...and again and again.
 - b. We learn David's song of Praise to God.

2. What is happening in this text in 2 Samuel 23:1-7? _____

3. How do we interpret David's words about his own righteousness?
 - a. He is awfully arrogant, isn't he?
 - b. What if this is true? Despite David's faults and sin, which we have seen, David ruled differently than Saul and responded to his own sin differently than Saul.
 - c. Something was certainly different. God did not remove the kingdom from David the way he did with Saul.

4. What do we learn in 2 Samuel 23:8-39?
 - a. These are the names of David's might warriors.
 - b. We learn of some of the might exploits of David's mightiest warriors.
 - c. It kind of seems like the author is wrapping things up. We have summaries of the Philistine battles, a song that David sang with every victory, David's last words, David's great warriors...what's next?

5. What does David do in 24:1-17?
 - a. It doesn't sound good...it starts with the anger of the Lord.
 - b. He took a census of his fighting men.
 - c. When the census was done, David was conscience-stricken for what he had done and immediately cried out to the Lord for forgiveness (vs. 10).
 - d. David was given the choice between three consequences for his sin.
 - e. David answered that he wanted to be in the hands of God and not of men, so plague came on the land and 70,000 people died.
 - f. God stopped the angel short.
 - g. David cried out to God to take responsibility and ask for mercy for his people.

6. Why was this such a big deal?
 - a. It probably wasn't. God is just unreasonable sometimes.
 - b. Exodus 30:12 makes a census a spiritual act where people give a ransom for their lives recognizing God's salvation and this was appointed by God, not by an earthly king.
 - c. Some commentaries suggest that it was understood in that day that a man only had the authority to count what belonged to him. Israel belonged to God, not to David.
 - d. God gave Israel victory on many occasions with fewer men in their army than the enemy. Israel was to trust God for victory, not the number of their troops. In 24:3, Joab alludes to this when he says "May God multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not the lord's subjects?"

7. Where do you put your trust? _____
Do you recognize the source of everything you have and oversee? _____