

A close-up of a marble bust of a man with curly hair, set against a background of cracked, aged parchment. The bust is centered and slightly to the left. The text "Return of the King" is overlaid on the bust's face.

Return of the King





"When people decided that I was wicked and evil and conniving and not a good person, that was the one I couldn't really bounce back from, because my whole life was centered around it."

--Taylor Swift

Acts 4: 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly.**

Only 3 in 10 unchurched Americans (29%) say a Christian has ever shared with them one-on-one how a person becomes a Christian.

Lifeway Research

Principle: A struggle with confidence is a necessary part of a Christian's faith journey.

2 Samuel 5: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”

2 Samuel 24: Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go and take a census of Israel and Judah.”

2 Samuel 24: 2 So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, “Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are.”

3 But Joab replied to the king, “May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?”

2 Samuel 24: 4 The king's word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to enroll the fighting men of Israel.

9 Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.

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Three Mysteries:

1). Why was the census wrong?

Three Mysteries:

- 1). Why was the census wrong?
- 2). Why was God angry with the Israelites?

God is not obligated to explain
Himself
or justify His ways.

We should always live for and
worship
a mysterious God.

Three Mysteries:

- 1). Why was the census wrong?
- 2). Why was God angry with the Israelites?
- 3). How can David be blamed for something God incited?

2 Samuel 24: 10 David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, “**I have sinned greatly** in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”

2 Samuel 24: 11 Before David got up the next morning, the word of the Lord had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: 12 "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

13 So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three years of famine in your

2 Samuel 24: land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me.”

14 David said to Gad, “I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands.”

2 Samuel 24: 15 So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died.

2 Samuel 24: 16 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, “Enough! Withdraw your hand.” The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

The Consequences of David's Loss of Confidence:

Sin

Multiplied Sin

Death

Arrogance

Muted Witness

No Prayer

Absent God

2 Samuel 24: 17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, “I have sinned; **I, the shepherd**, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family.”

1 Kings 1: 1 When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. 2 So his attendants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.”

1 Kings 1: 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. **4** The woman was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no sexual relations with her.

vv. 14 Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great (David trusted God's mercy)

vv. 15 The Lord sent a plague on Israel (wrath inflicted)

vv. 16 The Lord relented concerning the disaster (Mercy displayed)

Two Things David Did to Regain His Confidence

David wrapped God's wrath in
God's mercy.

God's mercy

restores confidence in faith.

David wasn't a believer who
gripped God's mercy.

God's mercy gripped David.

Two Things David Did to Regain His Confidence

David made atonement for sin.

2 Samuel 24: 25 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. **Then the Lord answered his prayer** in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

John 10: 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good **shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep...14 “I am the good **shepherd**; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep...17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

Psalms 23: The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Psalms 23: 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Psalm 23: 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

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