



The Story of David

⑩ David's greed

Narration God was with king David and he grew stronger and stronger triumphing wherever he went. Despite God's overflowing grace, king David wanted to be even stronger and greater.

David In order to become a bigger and stronger country, we need more troops and we need to collect more taxes. General Joab! Go now around the country and take a detailed census. We need to strengthen the country's power and treasury and we need an accurate census to do that.

Joab Your highness, census is not something that pleases the Lord, God of Israel. Even without taking a census, God takes care of and protects our country. Why do you order a census so fearlessly?

David General! Are you defying my command? Go now and take a census!

Joab Ah...yes... as you command.

Narration Forced to do so by the king's order, General Joab and the servants took the census over a very long period of time. Just as their journey was coming to an end, God sent a plague on Israel and prophet Gad comes to the king.

Prophet Gad Your highness! What is the real reason for taking a census? The plague that has fallen on this country is not unrelated to the king's sins!

David Ah.. I have sinned greatly. I wanted to check and show off my greatness and become even more powerful than I am now. I beg you, please forgive me.. I was very arrogant and foolish... sob sob...



Prophet Gad The stability and strength of Israel lie in the hands of God but you tried, instead of the Almighty God, to strengthen the country with an army and money . God regards arrogance to be an evil sin and has sent a plague on Israel! Innocent people are suffering because of your actions!

Narration God sent a plague on Israel and thousands of Israelites died and suffered as a result. David realised how his arrogance and sinful actions could cause harm to the people.

David God! I am the one who ordered the census. I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These people have done nothing wrong.
My God! My Lord! Let your hand fall upon me and my family and take away the plague from the people.



Narration God saw the suffering of the Israelites and changed his mind. He heard David's prayer and told David, through prophet Gad, that the plague would be lifted.

Prophet Gad Your highness, go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite; then the plague will stop.

Narration David did as prophet Gad told him – he bought the threshing floor and built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings and prayed until the plague stopped. God accepted David's prayers and worship and took away the plague. Thereafter, king David abandoned all temptations to become more powerful through troops and money and for the rest of his life, he humbly obeyed God, striving not for himself but for God and the people of Israel and God was pleased with him.

