

to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Deer-sheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people. And Joab said unto the king, Now the Lord thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an ~~un~~^{hundred fold} hundred fold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing? Notwithstanding the King's word prevailed against Joab, and against the ~~captains~~^{captains} of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel."

And then we read how they went about and they took the number. And then we read that David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David ^{said to the Lord} ~~Lo~~, "I have sinned greatly in that I have done; now I ~~beseech~~ beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly." And so someone might draw from this that it is wrong to make a census, but that would certainly not be a correct interpretation because God commanded Moses to make a census. And so we find that there is no question but what David was here not at the beginning of his great accomplishment of freeing the people of Israel from the Philistine domination, freeing them from the tyranny and ~~the~~ oppression under which they suffered. And he established Israel in a state of freedom from these difficulties under which they had previously been and he conquered nations for a considerable distance around and established quite an empire there, and now David said, Let's number the people and find all the military strength we have so that we can go out and ~~of~~ conquer the world. And God said ^{He said,} No. "You have done your work of establishing ^{freedom,} establishing liberty here, getting sufficient economic strength that your people can go forward and ^{can} ~~be~~ have everything as it should be. Now it is just your pride, it is your desire for aggrandizement that is leading you on ~~in~~ in this and this is a sin. This trying to find just exactly what resources we have for another big push beyond that which the Lord had desired him to make before. And so God punished David for this in a way that made the census that had been made utterly useless. He gave him his choice whether he would