



# SERMON

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Speaker: Ben Adkison  
Sunday: July 25, 2021

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read 2 Samuel 24 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) In his sermon, Ben listed three reasons why David's census was a sin:
  - It was sin because God said it was a sin.
  - It was a sin because it demonstrated David's pride & trust in himself rather than God.
  - It was a sin because by building up the army, David showed an inclination towards unnecessary, future military endeavor. However, Israel was called to be a blessing and joy to the whole world, not a military terror to the whole world.

Commentators and scholars sometimes list additional reasons or guesses why this was a sin, but the truth is that no one is completely sure. Which of these possibilities sticks out to you? Why do you think it was a sin?

- 5) How do you handle it when you do not understand God or why God has done something? <sup>1</sup>
- 6) This passage touches on the mystery God's sovereignty and man's responsibility—both of which are taught in Scripture. Read this quote by Melissa Kruger and discuss together:

*Just because I do not understand how something can be so, does not mean it is not so. It simply means my understanding is insufficient. Surely, God can be and act in ways outside of our ability to comprehend. As Paul rightly questions, "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" (Rom. 11:34)*

*Reading these passages reminds me to be patient with mystery. I can hold these truths in the balance, experiencing great comfort in them both. My own responsibility for my actions causes me to rejoice all the more in the grace of God. The perfect righteousness that I am unable to attain, he freely gives. <sup>2</sup>*

- 7) Do you have a general negative perception of the wrath of God? Why or why not? <sup>3</sup>
- 8) How does Jesus beautifully picture both the wrath and the mercy of God? <sup>4</sup>
- 9) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.

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<sup>1</sup> J. D. Greear and Heath A. Thomas, [Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Melissa Kruger, "The Unlikely Friendship Between God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility, October 4, 2016, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/melissa-kruger/the-unlikely-friendship-between-gods-sovereignty-and-mans-responsibility/>

<sup>3</sup> J. D. Greear and Heath A. Thomas, [Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> J. D. Greear and Heath A. Thomas, [Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016).