

# 2 Samuel 24 - Wrath wrapped in Mercy



## Introduction

What makes a good ending to a story? What are the best or worst endings you've come across in films/books?

What are your initial impressions of 2 Samuel 24 as an ending to the books of 1 & 2 Samuel (they were originally one long book)?

## Read 2 Samuel 24:1-10 - Sin and Repentance

What are we told *and not told* explicitly about David's sin?

Are there clues we can use here to put together an idea of why David's actions were sinful? Do we need to know precisely or not? Why? Why not?

Read v10-13 - and note where David's repentance (v10) comes in the sequence of events in the chapter... Then compare that to 2 Samuel 12 - where does his repentance come in the sequence of events - what does that show us about David now in ch 24?

Are we quick to repent, convicted by our hearts? Or only when confronted with sin or the consequences of your sin? What was the sequence last time you felt convicted of sin?

## Read 2 Samuel 24:13-17 - Justice and Mercy

Think about the three options laid before David (v13) - how might they impact a nation seeking to consolidate its military strength and seek to be the super-power in the region?

How does v14 reveal David's understanding of who God is? How does that square up to your understanding?

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v15 is the wrath of God being poured out - and it is terrifying - but how is it 'wrapped in mercy' as one commentator put it? (v14 and v16)

We don't precisely understand or perhaps agree with God's wrath here - what can we learn from David here about letting God be God? How is he able to entrust himself and his people to the Lord? What is the difference between humbly submitting and obeying vs only going along with God when we agree with what he's doing?

## **Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25 - Wrath is only fully satisfied by sacrifice**

Why does David refuse Aruanah's offer? What is the end result of the sacrifice?

Read Genesis 22:2 and 2 Chronicles 3:1 - what do we learn about the significance of this threshing floor?

How is David's plea in v17 finally answered on a hill not far from the site of this threshing floor centuries later? How do these words cast light on Jesus's words in John 10:11?

OPTIONAL EXTRA: Read Hebrews 7:23-38 and 10:11-14 - How and why is Jesus sacrifice and priesthood infinitely better than anything that has come before? What does that mean for us today?

What are the big things that have stayed with you from the book of 2 Samuel? If you could sum these up for yourself, what have you learned about God and our response to him? How will you be changed by these truths?