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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1516 ~ David Numbers Israel.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

A major earthquake shook the seabed near some small Pacific Ocean islands. Before long, a huge wall of water swept over coastal lowlands, destroying all in its path. Only those people who fled inland to higher ground survived. Once the event was over, the survivors were not willing to settle again in the beach areas. Instead, they asked for building materials so they could remake their houses in the hills. They said, "We don't want to live at our usual place because it brings back sad memories of the disaster." Some of the villages were destroyed but not rebuilt, for they were now considered to be in risk areas for serious flooding. Starting all over again took a long time before the people could return to their normal routines.

The rebellion of Absalom against his father King David was crushed. David now needed to return to Jerusalem and re-establish his government. At first he hesitated to go. He wished to make sure the people wanted him once again as their king.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

Many governments regularly take a census for planning out future needs in housing, basic facilities, and demands for water and power. On a particular night, all households will fill out their census form, which usually contains many pages of questions that need answering.

David did not have this type of census in mind when he ordered his army commander Joab to count the Israelite men of military-service age. From a fear of his enemies and a lack of faith in God, David wanted to impress the surrounding nations around Israel that he had a mighty army that was not to be reckoned with. Reluctantly, Joab and his team undertook a count. It took them nearly 10 months to finish the countryside census. During all that time, David did not recognize this was a wrong thing to do. And when he found out how many men he had, pride took place in David's heart.

One writer points out: pride started in heaven, continues on earth and will finish in hell. Resist pride. It will do you no good. And it didn't help King David either. He had a visit from a prophet of God who gave him 3 choices of punishment. Rather than be at the mercy of merciless enemies for 3 months, he preferred to fall into the hands of the living God, whom he knew to be merciful. So David chose a deadly disease epidemic on the people of Israel to last for 3 days.

As soon as the plague started that very same day, it swiftly took its toll. Men who had been well and strong suddenly became sick to the point of death. Over the 3 days, a total of 70,000 men lost their lives to this plague - so suddenly and so unexpectedly. What terrible grief the people must have suffered. When the angel of death reached Jerusalem, however, God said "Enough". No one there died.

A child from a rich family living a couple of hundred years ago asked his tutor about death and dying. The tutor assured him that he was young and not to worry about it. But the child responded saying that he had been to the cemetery and seen small graves there.

Many people don't want to think about their old age or death. Inevitably it brings up thoughts of suffering and pain. Yet it is madness not to expect and prepare for the close of life on this earth. For the believer in Christ, comfort comes from verses of Scripture like Psalm 116: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Land up on Mount Moriah was owned and being farmed by a Jebusite man called Araunah. He had a threshing floor there that separated the grain from the chaff or trash. When the angel of death neared the threshing floor, David could see the damage he personally had caused. David immediately confessed to God that the sin of numbering the people was his and not the people's. The people shouldn't have to suffer unnecessarily in this way. The prophet of God returned to David and told him to build an altar to the Lord on Araunah's threshing floor.

Araunah offered King David his threshing floor and animals as a gift, to be used in a sacrifice that would stop the plague. But David paid for them, refusing to offer God a sacrifice that cost him nothing. This place became one of special significance to the Israelites. It was from here that God stopped the plague. Later, Solomon built a great temple to God at this place. Today in this place, however, there stands the "Dome of the Rock", one of the most important Islamic mosques in the world. It is a most sorrowful thing to modern-day Israelites to have such a sacred place in the hands of the Muslims. Jewish people around the world look forward to the day when a third temple will be built there, as is promised in the Bible.

A famous preacher once wrote: "Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now, I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal – a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a body fashioned like the Lord Jesus' glorious body." Until God calls you home, whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God. Otherwise, it will be worthless and unacceptable to God.

Do you have assurance you are part of God's eternal kingdom before it comes your time to die? The Lord Jesus said in John's Gospel, Chapter 5: "I am telling you the truth: those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life." And the Bible book of Romans, Chapter 10, says:

"If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved." If you haven't done so already, ask God now to ensure your future home is in heaven.

King David wrote Psalm 23, which starts with "The Lord is my Shepherd." This psalm has been a big comfort to people in sorrow and distress throughout every generation since.

MUSIC - [The Bible In Living Sound](#). (*David singing Psalm 23.*)

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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