DAVID	who refused a magnificent	gift
who refused	a magnificent gift	
	(2 SAMUEL 24: 24)	

There was great trouble in Israel; a plague was destroying the people. The king had acted unwisely, and his earnest prayers were seeking forgiveness. "And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for J have done very foolishly" (2 Sam. 24:10). His cry of anguish reached the heart of God, and the prophet Gad was sent to reveal a way of escape. "And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. And David went up as the Lord commanded" (vv. 18, 19).

A Present Refused

DAVID

The farmer was startled when he saw the royal procession coming toward him, and "he bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant'? And David said, To buy the threshing floor of thee, to build an altar unto the Lord, that the plague may be stayed from the people" (vv. 20, 21). Then the man stood and graciously offered to give everything needed for the carrying out of David's plans. He fully realized that the tide of evil had reached his own property, and soon he and his family would become its victims. "Master," he cried, "You can have it all. I want no money. Take whatsoever you desire and, 'the Lord thy God accept thee'." David's eyes probably became misty as he listened to the words of his subject; yet slowly he shook his head and answered, "Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (v. 24). Many people are eager to give away other people's possessions; their giving then costs nothing. David refused to belong to this category. He had hurt God; his atonement must hurt him.

A Price Paid

"So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar unto the Lord" (vv. 24, 25). All true giving to God costs something; and our Lord Jesus Christ provides the greatest example of this fact. He also saw a plague sweeping through a world, and realized that an altar alone could rob it of power. The erection of that altar was not easily accomplished. (i) He yearned until He wept. When He saw men as sheep without a shepherd; when He saw a city without hope, nothing could prevent His tears of sorrow. (ii) He prayed until He bled. The garden conflict broke His heart, and "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (iii) He gave until He died. The triumph of Calvary reveals how great was the price He paid for our salvation. Eternal love was sacrificial love. Is it not a cause for amazement that some who profess His name can offer to their Lord something which costs nothing?

A Plague Removed

"So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel" (v. 25). And from that

DAVID who refused a magnificent gift day, the people gratefully remembered the threshingfloor of Araunah. The altar and its sacrifice had robbed a plague of power. And Araunah himself had the greatest cause for rejoicing; he might have been dead had not salvation come to his house. Thus even in the twilight ages preceding the coming of Christ, God endeavoured to prepare His people for the glorious Gospel of His salvation. Man's happiness would be eternally linked with an altar, for there the power of sin would be defeated, his own safety be assured, and songs of praise would instinctively arise from his heart. When the news of David's altar spread through the land, suffering people obtained new hope, and it was more than likely that many of them left their homes in search of healing. And if that were the case, they foreshadowed a great host who in the fullness of time sought shelter in the shadow of Calvary's cross.

I take, O Cross, thy shadow For my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face; Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss; My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the Cross. This document was created with Win2PDF available at http://www.daneprairie.com. The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.