

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shmuel Bet: Perek Chaf Dalet
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק כ"ד

1. The פרק opens with a statement that ה' continued to be upset with ישראל. What is it referring to when it says "continues" when was He previously upset with ישראל in this ספר?
2. Who instigated דוד to decide to count the people? See פסוק א here and compare it to דברי הימים א' כא:א.
3. Why is counting the people a bad thing? Can you find a clue to the opening פסוק of the פרק?
4. Notice that both the beginning and ending of the פרק refer to המלך, while the middle refers to דוד.
5. Look at the number of soldiers counted and compare it to the number in the days of (שמואל א' יא:ח).
6. This is the second time in this ספר that דוד regrets his actions and confesses to ה' (the first was in the story with שבע). What important differences can you find between these two stories? (Note: there are three other times that דוד acknowledges error – שמואל א' כה:לג, שמואל ב' ו:ח, שמואל א' כד:ה – error).
7. Assuming that דוד did something wrong, why would ה' punish all of ישראל for it?
8. It is quite unusual that ה' would offer דוד to choose between different kinds of punishments – no such parallel exists anywhere else. Can you explain why He would offer that choice?
9. Note: Of the three consequences ה' offers, דוד has had experience with two already!
10. What rationale does דוד offer for his choice of punishment? Did it work for him? Notice that his explanation has found a permanent place in the daily תפילה!
11. What important switch does דוד make in פסוק יז?
12. Based on this story, what makes ארונה's silo an appropriate place to build the בית המקדש?
13. What unusual piece of information do we discover in פסוק כג? Why is that so surprising?
14. This is the third (and final) time in תנ"ך where we find one of our heroes insisting on purchasing land in ארץ ישראל rather than conquering it or receiving it as a gift. What are the other two?