

it that really are a lot of numbers, but one of them comes right at the start. The first step, the census 1:1-~~20~~⁴⁶ followed by special directions about the Levites and the priests. And before ~~we~~ we note the relevance of this to the Christian in his pilgrimage journey, in his service of the Lord, we notice No. 1 here under B.

1. The Problem of David's Census. Because I am sure that for every Christian that knows anything about the census that you find in the 1st chapter. of Num. you will find 5 or 6 ^{who} ~~that~~ are familiar with the account that is given us in 2 Sam. 24 and in 1 Chron. 21 of what happened when David took a census. I am going to read to you from 2 Sam. 24 (Read 24:1-) Now this says/^{that} God moved David against them and over in 1 Chron. 21 it says that Satan moved David, it says that Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel and what a contradiction we have here. 2 Sam. says God did it and 1 Chron. says Satan did it. What a contradiction. Well if you take any book and take a verse here and a verse there you will find contradictions. There are verbal contradictions everywhere. But when you get a ~~g~~ little further~~e~~ down into the meat of it, when you see what is really said ~~there~~, there, you find that the contradiction is a contradiction of words rather than a contradiction of reality. Because Satan cannot do anything but what God permits him to do. God permits Satan to continue and to do certain things and we have to struggle against Satan, but God desires that we ^{should} ~~would~~ learn to overcome in the struggle. And God would ^{not} permit Satan to do anything if it were not eventually for our good provided we look to the Lord and follow Him in through the temptation, through the difficulty. So here we have a situation where there were definite reasons which we could look at if we had more time why it was a desirable ~~z~~ thing from the viewpoint of God's plan, and we also have very definite reasons why it was from ~~Satan~~ Satan's viewpoint a very desirable thing depending how it came out. So that there is no contradiction except a verbal one, but an increased ~~z~~ understanding of the truths~~s~~ as we compare Scripture with Scripture and put them together. And so we read "the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah. For the king said