

Joab and the generals are slow following the king's orders and only later does David realize his error. The real issue that emerges concerns itself with power and allegiance. Worldly power has brought David to a place he doesn't belong. David is an earthly ruler who has slipped into the mistake of desiring personal allegiance instead of directing loyalty to God. It's a common problem national leaders and their military continue to suffer. Creation belongs to God, not any earthly king. Only God has any right to know exact numbers. Today, the pursuit of power has moved humankind well beyond arguing with God, over the numbers of people, to the point where we actually believe we can dictate how many and what type. Abortion, Capital Punishment, Genocide and Medical Assisted Dying! What kind of foolishness imagines that Time's Author, doesn't know when to send forth and call back life? No friends, these acts collaborate with deceit and killing, and, Christians will have no part of them. Followers, like St Agatha, one of seven women along with our Blessed Mother, mentioned in the canon of Mass, see suffering and pain as opportunities to align with Jesus' cross and extend care not death.

Jesus neither is going to fare very well in his hometown of Nazareth. Dead prophets, we know, don't say very much and are far easier to ignore. Alive, however, they can be downright troublesome.

You see, Prophets speak the truth. A truth that rattles the deepest parts of our conscience! Theirs' is God's relentless plea to move humankind beyond injustice. Prophets are very much the conscience of a nation.

God has, in every age raised up prophets. But in all too many instances, people have chosen to run them out of our conscientiousness. The result of ignoring our prophets, surrenders power and guidance to earthly ambitions. Thankfully, there are today the baptized of St Peter's Parish who speak of justice and right relationship. We do well to test and heed the words of any who speak and live the Gospel Truth.

Amen