

## Introduction: We need a “Big Picture” Perspective

Understanding the biblical context of stories prevents us from missing the forest for the trees, and helps us interpret Scripture properly. Today's story from David's life happened at the end of his life when he was about to prepare everything necessary for Solomon to build the temple for God, and to transition from a time of the Ark of the Covenant being in David's tabernacle, to it being in Solomon's new temple (along with all the ceremonial and sacrificial elements of the temple).

## Point 1: The Unique Period of David's Tabernacle

- **Two Separate Tabernacles for 30+ Years:**
  - Jerusalem: Tabernacle of David with the Ark of the Covenant, worship, and praise
  - Gibeon: Traditional tabernacle with sacrificial system (6 miles away)
- **Revolutionary Access:** Anyone could enter God's presence at David's tabernacle
- **New Testament Parallel:** Like having New Testament access in Old Testament times
- **Acts 15 Connection:** James declares our current time as "rebuilding David's tabernacle"

## Point 2: The Biblical Timeline - Understanding Grace vs. Judgment

- **Before Sin:** Complete access and intimacy between humans and God
- **After Fall to Noah's Flood:**
  - Spiritual death immediate, physical death delayed (~900 years)
  - Sin abounded with little structure
  - God's grace in delaying judgment
- **Noah to Moses:**
  - Sacrifice system instituted
  - Loose structure with promises of coming Savior
  - Period of grace with delayed judgment
- **Moses to Jesus:**
  - Law introduced with blessings and curses
  - Daily and yearly sacrifice systems
  - Pictures pointing to Jesus' coming sacrifice
- **Jesus to Present:**
  - All Old Testament sacrifices fulfilled in Christ
  - Living in delayed judgment until Judgment Day
  - Period of grace through Jesus' sacrifice

## Point 3: The Census Crisis - When Grace and Law Collide (1 Chronicles 21)

- **Satan's Instigation:** "Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel"
- **The Census Command:** David orders Joab to count all fighting men from Dan to Beersheba
- **Joab's Warning:** Questions why David would "be a cause of guilt in Israel"
- **The Missing Element:**
  - Exodus 30 requirement: Every person in a census must pay ransom/atonement fee
  - Census = inspection/examination like Judgment Day
  - Without payment, plague would break out
- **The Consequences:**
  - Plague breaks out as promised

- 70,000 people die
- David's confession: "I have sinned greatly"

## Point 4: The Threshing Floor - God's Chosen Place

- **Divine Intervention:** Angel with drawn sword stops plague over Jerusalem
- **God's Command:** Build altar on Ornan's threshing floor
- **David's Integrity:** "I will not offer to God anything that costs me nothing"
- **The Purchase:** 600 shekels of gold for the land
- **Supernatural Confirmation:** Fire from heaven consumes the sacrifice
- **David's Fear:** Unable to go to Gibeon's altar, afraid of the angel's sword
- **Transition Moment:** Moving from grace period back to law system for Solomon's temple

## Point 5: Understanding Our Current Position

- **Jesus as Judge:**
  - John 5:22 - Father has given all judgment to the Son
  - John 12 - Jesus delays judgment to save, not condemn
  - John 5 - Believers pass from death to life, avoiding judgment
- **Our Privileged Position:**
  - Living under Jesus' complete sacrifice
  - Access to God's presence like David's tabernacle
  - No return to Old Testament law system
  - Hebrews 10:14 - "Made perfect forever while being made holy"

## Conclusion & Life Applications

### 1. Understand and Appreciate God's Grace

- Recognize we deserve immediate judgment but live under delayed grace
- 2 Peter 3 - God is patient, giving people time to be saved
- Balance: Fear God's awesome justice while rejoicing in His presence
- Enter boldly into God's presence through Jesus' blood
- Don't take God's grace lightly or become lazy in our faith

### 2. Don't Mix Grace and Law

- **Either/Or Choice:** Live fully under grace or fully under law (Galatians 5:1-4 and Romans 11:6)
- **Avoid David's Mistake:** Don't try to combine grace living with law requirements
- **Grace Received = Grace Given:** If we receive grace from God, we must extend grace to others. Don't demand justice from others while expecting grace for ourselves

## Personal Response:

- **For Unbelievers:** Accept Jesus' complete payment for sin
- **For Believers:**
  - Understand your position in God's timeline
  - Live fully in grace, not trying to earn God's favor through works
  - Extend the same grace to others that God has given you
  - Maintain healthy fear/reverence for God while enjoying intimate access to His presence

## Key Truth:

We have a better covenant than David - permanent access through Jesus' one perfect sacrifice, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us forever.

## Scriptures Used in this talk:

Isaiah 55:3-4 - David is a witness and an example for us to follow

1 Chronicles 22:8 - David forbidden from building the temple because of his bloodshed

Psalms 132:3-5 - David wanted to find a place for God's temple

1 Chronicles 16:1 - David built a tent (tabernacle) in Jerusalem for God's ark / presence to reside

1 Chronicles 16:39-42 - there was still a ceremonial tabernacle at the same time at Gibeon where sacrifices were being made

Genesis 3:8 - Humans had intimacy with God before their sin

Genesis 6:5 - before the flood all their thoughts were evil all the time

Genesis 8:20 - After the flood, God gave Noah instructions regarding sacrifices pointing toward Jesus' sacrifice for sin.

Deuteronomy 28 - the law was a system of blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience.

Romans 3:19-20, Galatians 3:19 - the law was given to reduce sin, and to make people very aware of their sin, and ready to receive the saviour when He arrived.

Hebrews 9:11-15 - Jesus fulfilled all the sacrifice and ceremonial elements of the tabernacle fully.

Acts 15:16 - we, the New Testament Church, are the rebuilding of David's tabernacle.

1 Chronicles 21:1-9, 15-17, 24-26, 28-30 - David's sin in numbering the people of Israel, and the results of that sin.

Exodus 30:12, 16 - what the law required when a census was taken - an atonement price for each person, otherwise a plague would break out.

2 Samuel 6 - David's sin when he first tried to bring the ark into Jerusalem 30 years earlier.

John 5:22 NKJV - "22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,"

John 12:47-48 NKJV - "47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

John 5:24 NKJV - "24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

2 Peter 3:9-10 NKJV - "9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens

will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

2Co 6:1 NKJV - "1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain."

Heb 4:16 NKJV - "16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Rom 11:6 NKJV - "6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."

Gal 5:2-4 NKJV - "2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."

Heb 10:14 NIV - "14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Acts 13:22, 36 - David, a man after God's heart, served God in his generation.

John 19:30 - Jesus' sacrifice was enough - "it is finished"

Jhn 1:12 NKJV - "12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:"