

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.

Point 1: The Unique Grace 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)
 - David was about to bring the 2 together in Solomon's Temple - from Grace back to Law
- **New Testament Parallel:** Like having New Testament access in Old Testament times -Ac 15:16

Point 2: The Census Crisis (1 Chronicles 21)

- **Satan's Instigation:** "Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel"
- **The Fatal Omission:**
 - Exodus 30 required atonement fee for every person counted in census
 - Census = examination like Judgment Day requiring ransom payment
 - Plague breaks out as Exodus 30 promised. 70,000 people die
- **Divine Confirmation:** Fire from heaven consumes David's sacrifice and this becomes the site of the new temple.

Point 3: Our place

- **Our Privilege:** Better covenant than David - permanent access through Jesus
- **Hebrews 10:14:** "Made perfect forever while being made holy"
- **Balance Required:** Fear God's justice while rejoicing in His presence
- **2 Peter 3:9** God patiently delays judgment so people can be saved
- **Don't Take Grace in Vain**

Conclusion & Life Applications

- **Don't try to Mix Grace and Law**
- **Grace Principle:** If we receive grace from God, we must give grace to others. Don't demand justice from others while expecting grace for ourselves
- **Enter boldly** into God's presence through Jesus' blood

Questions

1. Why do you think it's important to understand "what time period we're living in" as Christians, and how might this change the way we approach our faith?
2. What's the difference between living under "grace" versus living under "law,"? Can you think of examples from your own life where you may have mixed the two?
3. The sermon mentions that David had "victories and failures" but was still called "a man after God's own heart." How does this encourage you when you think about your own mistakes?