



# David Takes a Census

*Why it matters to read parallel passages & the full context.*

**Key Passages:** 2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21

Several differences in accounts, they complement and help us understand the story better.

**READ: 2 Samuel 24:1 VS 1 Chronicles 21:1**

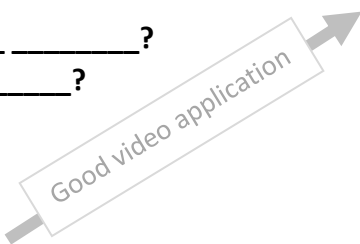
What are the differences? What do they imply?

**2 Key Initial questions that need to be answered:**

- 1) Why did God's anger \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2) Why was a census \_\_\_\_\_?

**TIMELINE:** it is confusing!

**READ: 2 Samuel 11: 1 and 1 Chronicles 20:1**



- 2 Samuel 21-24 are not in chronological order, separate stories in chiasmic form to make the case that David, while not perfect, is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- MASSIVE gap of time between 1 Chronicles 20:3 & verse 4 (15-16 years)
- The Chronicler (Ezra?) omits all of the David \_\_\_\_\_ and Bathsheba

## Actual TIMELINE

- 981 BC: War with the Ammonites and attack on the city of Rabbah
  - 980 BC: David stays home and sins with Bathsheba during the siege of Rabbah
  - 979 BC: David returns to battle to finish and plunder Rabbah
  - 978-966 BC: Family drama, Absalom revolt, Sheba Revolt
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- 965 BC: David is almost killed by the relatives of Goliath, but his men finish them off.
  - 964 BC: David orders Joab to take a census.

1) Why did God's anger burn against Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Why was a census tempting for David? \_\_\_\_\_



**READ: 1 Chronicles 21: 2-7 & 2 Samuel 24: 9**

- How do we explain the difference in numbers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why was this a SIN against God? (*Exodus 30:11-16*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Read: 2 Samuel 24:10**

- What is different about David’s conviction here compared to the Bathsheba Incident?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**READ 1 Chronicles 21:9-13**

- What are some differences from the Samuel account?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**READ 1 Chronicles 21:14-17**

- What does David’s choice reveal about his view of God? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who is “THE Angel of the Lord”? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 16:7-12; 21:17-18; 22:11-18; Exodus 3:2; Judges 2:1-4; 5:23; 6:11-24; 13:3-22; 2 Samuel 24:16; Zechariah 1:12; 3:1; 12:8*)
- What is different or expanded upon regarding the Angel of the Lord’s actions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How does David’s plea for mercy parallel the cross?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**READ 1 Chronicles 21:18-28 & 2 Samuel 24:25**

- Why was it important to David that his sacrifice COST him something?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the significance of the Angel sheathing his sword?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the significance of the Location where God halted his judgement?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the connection between Matthew 3:12 and where the Angel halts?  
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- How does this point to the cross and the future Judgement of Christ’s return?  
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**Closing thought:** When we realize our sin, let’s place ourselves fully at the mercy of God and set aside any justification for our actions.