

# SAMUEL

David & Bathsheba  
2 Samuel 11-12

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1. David's affair with Bathsheba
2. David's attempted cover up
3. The murder of Uriah the Hittite
4. David takes Bathsheba as his wife

- A. David sends Joab to besiege Rabbah (11:1)
  - B. David sleeps with Bathsheba, who becomes pregnant (11:2-5)
    - C. David has Uriah killed (11:6-17)
      - D. Joab sends David a message (11:18-27)
        - E. The Lord is displeased with David (11:27)
          - D. The Lord sends David a messenger (12:1-14)
            - C. The Lord strikes David's infant son, who dies (12:15-23)
              - B. David sleeps with Bathsheba, who becomes pregnant (12:24-25)
                - A. Joab sends for David to besiege and capture Rabbah (12:26-31)

# 11:1 David **sends** Joab to battle

- The text makes clear that David is shirking his responsibility
- Israel is still successful
- David is left with idle time
  - Loitering on his roof
  - Lounging on his couch
  - He spots a beautiful woman bathing

*Your faith was strong  
but you needed proof*

*You saw her bathing on  
the roof*

*Her beauty in the  
moonlight overthrew ya*

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# 11:3 David **sends** about Bathsheba

- He learns Bathsheba is the daughter of Eliam
  - One of David's thirty (2 Sam 23:26) is named Eliam
  - This may be the same person, but we're not sure
- She is the wife of Uriah the Hittite
  - One of David's thirty (2 Sam 23:39)

# The problem in parentheses

*“(Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.)”*

1. She wasn't pregnant before sex with David
2. David takes her at the time she's most likely to conceive
3. Uriah cannot possibly be the father

## 11:14-15 David **sends** word to Joab to kill Uriah

- The message to have Uriah killed is carried by Uriah's own hand to Joab
- The plan
  - Send Uriah to the most dangerous front of the battle
  - Pull back support
  - V.17 tells us other Israelites also died

## 11:16-21 Joab **sends** word to David

- If the king gets angry about the losses
  - “... you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’”
  - The losses will be acceptable to David

## 11:25 David **sends** word to Joab

- “Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another.”
- Calloused in his heart...the matter seems to be over

# 12:1-6 The Lord **sends** Nathan to David

- **The challenge:** confront and accuse the king of sin
  - Realistically, David was already confronted with his sin
  - He had tried to cover up his guilt
  - He chose violence
- **The method:** have the king convict himself
- **The message:** appeal to David's history as a shepherd and his compassion for the poor

# 12:7-12 Nathan reveals punishment

- What God did:
  - Anointed David king over Israel
  - Delivered David out of the hand of Saul
  - Gave David Saul's house, wives, the house of Israel, the house of Judah
  - “And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.”

# 12:7-12 Nathan reveals punishment

- What David did:
  - Despised the word of the Lord to do evil
  - Struck down Uriah with the sword of the Ammonites
  - Taken Uriah's wife

# 12:7-12 Nathan reveals punishment

- The sword shall never depart from David's house
- Evil will rise up against David's house
- The Lord shall take his wives and give them to a neighbor, and the neighbor will lay with them openly

David's punishment sounds similar to Saul's (1 Sam 15:10-31)

Everything hinges on David's response

# 12:13-15 David's response

1 Sam 15:24-31

Saul: “I have sinned...because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin...”

Saul: “I have sinned; yett honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel...”

2 Sam 12:13

David: “I have sinned against the Lord”

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# True Repentance met with Forgiveness

- “The Lord has put away your sin”
  - David’s genuine repentance
  - God’s compassion and grace
- “...the child who is born to you shall die”
  - Theory 1: the guilt is transferred to the child
  - Theory 2: David’s sin is taken away, but consequence is allowed to continue

# 12:16-23 David and the child

- David fasted, prayed, and grieved while the child was sick
  - “...for I said, ‘Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live.’”
- David arose, washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes, and worshipped when the child died
  - “...Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

# 12:24-25 The Lord **sends** Nathan

- Solomon is born
  - The Lord loved him
  - Nathan brings a message of love and acceptance from the Lord to David and Bathsheba
  - *Jedidiah* = beloved of the Lord

## 12:26-31 Joab **sends** for David

- Joab is on the cusp of defeating Ammon and it's royal city
- He tells David to come take it, or else Joab will name the city after himself
- When David comes and defeats the city, Joab takes the Ammonite crown and places it on David