

DAVID'S SIN WITH BATHSHEBA

Introduction:

1. David has proven himself to be a man of integrity, loyalty, and faithfulness – a man after God's own heart.
2. However, even the strongest of men is tempted by the world.
3. Even the mightiest man is capable of falling into blatant sin against God.

I. The Setting

(2 Samuel 11:1)

- A. Israel was in the midst of a protracted war with the Ammonites (2 Sam. 10).
- B. As a part of this battle, Israel besieged the city of Rabbah.
 1. This was a lengthy process, meant to cut them off from food and other supplies, leading to their surrender.
 2. It seems that this siege lasted for at least a year (some commentators suggest two years).
- C. Israel's army was under the command of Joab, freeing David to remain at Jerusalem – probably to take care of affairs of state.
 1. Some claim that David's sin could have been avoided if he had been where he was supposed to be – with his army in battle.
 2. They imply that David had grown lazy and weak as King of Israel.
 3. However, the Bible nowhere states these things.

II. The Sin

(2 Samuel 11:2-4)

- A. David was pacing on the roof of his house in the heat of the late afternoon.
- B. From the roof, he saw a beautiful woman bathing.
 1. It does not seem that Bathsheba was flagrantly exposing herself.
 2. She was likely in the enclosed courtyard of her home.
 3. However, she should have been more careful to realize that she could be seen (cf. 1 Tim. 2:9-10).
- C. David's sin was not in seeing this sight; rather, it was in allowing his lust to cause him to dwell upon it.
 1. Notice that he did not see her, and then avert his eyes.
 2. Instead, he saw that she was beautiful to look upon – he fixed his attention upon her.
 3. Then, he allowed her to remain in his thoughts.
 4. Finally, he sought her out.
 5. This illustrates James' description of the progress of sin (Jam. 1:14-15).
- D. After inquiring about her, David learned that she was Bathsheba – the daughter of Eliam, grand-daughter of Ahithophel, and wife of Uriah the Hittite.
 1. Ahithophel was one of David's counsellors (15:12; cf. 23:34).
 2. Eliam was one of David's mighty men (23:34).
 3. Uriah was one of David's mighty men (23:39).
- E. Up to this point, David may have thought she was single, and his adultery was only in his heart (cf. Matt. 5:28; 15:19).
- F. Now, he was aware that she was another man's wife and his lust for her needed to be checked.
- G. Yet, David persisted, brought her to his house, and committed adultery with her.

2 Samuel 11

- H. Consider what David did not see from his rooftop...
 - 1. David did not see the consequences for Bathsheba.
 - a. Her guilt
 - b. The harm to her home
 - c. Her pregnancy
 - d. Her grief over the deaths of her husband and child
 - 2. David did not see the consequences for Uriah.
 - a. The harm to his home
 - b. His death
 - 3. David did not see the consequences for his unborn child (12:14-15).
 - a. His sickness
 - b. His death
 - 4. David did not see the consequences for himself (12:10).
 - a. The rape of Tamar
 - b. The murder of Ammon
 - c. The rebellion of Absalom
 - d. The betrayal of Ahithophel
 - 5. David did not see the consequences for the Lord (12:14).
 - 6. David did not see that the pleasure of sin is only for a season (Heb. 11:24-27).
 - 7. David did not see that all sin is ultimately against God (Gen. 39:7-9).
- I. May this be a warning to all of us about the true danger of temptation and sin.

2 Samuel 11

- III. The Suppression (2 Samuel 11:5-27)
- A. Perhaps David planned for his transgression to be a one-time sin that he could keep secret.
 - B. However, Bathsheba conceived a child by the King of Israel.
 - 1. Under the Law of Moses, the punishment for adultery was death (Lev. 20:10).
 - 2. David probably had little reason to fear for his life, but Bathsheba was at risk.
 - 3. David did fear the harm to his reputation and the threat to his rule.
 - C. Thus, David began to scheme in an attempt to cover up his sin and its consequences.
 - D. First, he sent word to Joab to send Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, home.
 - 1. When he arrived, David ordered him to give a report on the condition of the army and the progress of the war.
 - 2. Clearly, David wanted Uriah (and others) to believe that this was the reason that he had been called home.
 - 3. In fact, David wanted Uriah to visit his wife – hoping that he could deceive him into thinking that the child to be born was his.
 - E. Then, he sent Uriah home to his wife, along with a provision of food from the king's table (cf. Gen. 43:34).
 - 1. However, Uriah proved himself to be a man of honor.
 - 2. He refused to go to his house, instead he slept with the other servants of David at the court of the palace.
 - 3. When questioned, he explained that he could not enjoy the luxuries of home while the rest of the army was enduring the hardships of war.
 - F. When this failed, David ordered Uriah to remain in Jerusalem for 2 more days.
 - G. Next, he attempted to get Uriah drunk so he would become lax in his judgment and go visit his wife – but this also failed.
 - H. Finally, David wrote to Joab instructing him to arrange Uriah's murder.
 - 1. Uriah was to be sent into the most dangerous fighting of the battle.
 - 2. Then, the other soldiers were to be ordered away from him – leaving him to fight alone and to be killed.
 - 3. Consider that Uriah delivered the letter commanding his own death.
 - I. Joab obeyed and Uriah was killed in battle.
 - 1. Do not fail to notice that the corrupt Joab was not disturbed at all by David's plan and carried it out with deadly accuracy.
 - 2. Now, Joab had compromising information on David – the King's integrity had been breached.
 - 3. Notice also that other men of Israel died in this battle along with Uriah.
 - J. Joab sent word to David concerning the battle and the death of Uriah.
 - K. David did not respond as most would have expected, simply stating that these things happen in war and Joab should try to do better next time.
 - L. Bathsheba learned of the death of her husband and mourned for him.
 - 1. Whether or not she knew of what David had done, the Bible does not say.
 - 2. The mourning probably lasted for 7 days (Gen. 50:10; 1 Sam. 31:13).
 - M. When the time of mourning passed, David married Bathsheba and brought her into his home – and, in time, she gave birth to his son.
 - N. "But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD."