

2 Samuel 11 and 12; Psalm 51

David's life and writing provided Jesus with examples and instruction on how to live godly. In many ways, David is also an eschatological type for the Messiah. After this event, he changed to become the example for the penitent sinner.

11:1 – Spring marked the end of the rainy season and assured that roads were in good condition and food plentiful for animals and soldiers.

Joab is the son of Zeruiah, sister of David, so David was his uncle.

Rabbath was the chief city of the Ammonites, among the eastern hills, some 20 miles east of the Jordan. For two years it held out against Israel. The destruction of Rabbath was the last of David's conquests as his kingdom now reached its farthest limits. Today, this Ammon capitol of Jordan.

Staying home was not David's usual practice. He led troops into battle as did most kings. The roof was a cooler place than inside without air conditioning. Samuel met with Saul on the roof (1 Samuel 9:25 and 26).

3 – Eliam is the father of Bathsheba and the son of Ahithophel. He is listed with the thirty mighty men.

2 Samuel 23:8–39 and 1 Chronicles 11:10–47 – David's mighty men, also referred to as the "thirty chiefs" and simply "the Thirty". These men were David's toughest military warriors who were credited with heroic feats. The list has 37 men, maybe because some died and others added, or the 30 was approximate not exact.

Ahithophel was David's counselor. When Absalom rebelled against David, Ahithophel became his counselor and betrayed David probably because of this issue with Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 15:12, 31; 16:23

2 Samuel 23:39 – Uriah was also among the thirty, so David's sinful acts were not against strangers, rather men who were very loyal to him. Soldiers who go through battles together develop a bond of unparalleled loyalty, brotherhood. David had that relationship with Bathsheba's father and husband. Her grandfather was his confidant! David's actions are far removed from the man that was completely loyal to his king, Saul. For the reason of protecting their king, these men and their families probably lived around the palace which explains why David saw Bathsheba so clearly from his roof.

According to 1 Chronicles 3, David had seven wives - Ahinoam, Abigail, Maacha, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah. Michal is left off the list, and Bathsheba was not added yet. According to 2 Samuel 15:16, he had at least 10 concubines. Altogether, David had 19 sons by various women, and one daughter, Tamar. Bathsheba had four sons. Solomon was one of her sons.

How powerful is lust? David has everything, yet he does not have enough.

James 1:13-15 – Once the sin is conceived, nothing will stop it, not common sense or loyalty. David was a man.

4 – “Purified from her uncleanness” – something that happened before about which we learn now. She was at this time in her cycle, most likely to become pregnant.

5 – “I am pregnant” are her only words in the entire narrative, words that set in motion her husband’s death. Did she sin? Leviticus 20:10 tells us she did and deserved death! He did not rape her, and she could have refused David.

David broke three of the Ten Commandments:

1. You shalt not covet you neighbor’s wife - Exodus 20:17
2. You shalt not commit adultery - Exodus 20:14
3. You shalt not murder - Exodus 20:13

The consequences for adultery, according Leviticus 20:10, is death for both the man and the woman. The consequences for murder is also death - Genesis 9:6; Leviticus 24:17; Exodus 21:12, and Revelation 21:8 (lake of fire).

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 – David knew what the Scriptures said about this subject.

1Samuel 11:6 – Rabbah is over 40 miles from Jerusalem as the crow flies over. A difficult route of travel.

11 – 1Samuel 21:4-6 Ahimelech the priest men need to be clean of women

13 – Drunkenness usually effects a person’s morality by suppression of psychological inhibitions which may increase the desire for sex.

21 – Judges 9:50-53 Abimelech the son of Gideon was killed this way a hallmark moment in history.

12:6 – David fourfold restitution for killing the one lamb may have foretold his own fourfold consequence for his sin. Bathsheba’s first child [12:18], Amnon [13:28 and 29], Absalom [18:14 and 15], and Adonijah [1Kings 2:25] all die.

12:1-11 – 2Samuel 16:21 -23 Absalom did this to David so all Israel would know he was the new king under Ahithophl’s advisement.

15 – The consequences of David’s sin were vast.

- The great man Uriah lost his life.
- Eliam lost his son-in-law.
- Bathsheba lost her husband and child. The anguish of soul that she endeavored is incomprehensible.

- Joab participated in murder because of David, and his relationship with David changed for good. He had this information to hold over him.
- Other innocent men died with Joab.
- All of Israel were placed in jeopardy for the king's sin (Saul).

Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is one of 7 penitent psalms. David is identified as writing 6, 32, 38, 51, and 143. The other two with unidentified writers are 102 and 143. Psalm 51 is the only one connected with an event – the sin with Uriah and Bathsheba.

Unlike the other psalms we have viewed, David has an uncertainty about how Yahweh will respond to his request. He knows that his heinous sin deserves the consequence of death and eternal separation from God. He has no grounds for receiving forgiveness, only God's mercy and grace. David is concerned both for himself and Israel [vs.18 & 19]. He hopes that through the process of confession, contrition, and prayer for restoration, Yahweh will deal kindly with him and Israel.

The most difficult adversity of David's life was dealing with the reality of his own sin. Self-afflicted hardship due to sinful acts against God generate disgust, self-hatred, condemnation, and the greatest temptation to give up. "I can't live with myself", "what difference does it make?", "why bother" all expressions of one overwhelmed with their own sinfulness. The other extreme is the cavalier attitude of grace as permission to sin.

2 – "According to" means based on something. In desperate need of forgiveness, David can do nothing but cast himself on God's mercy. Exodus 34:6 & 7; Nehemiah 4:18; 9:17; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Psalms 25:6; 86:15; 103:8; 108:4; 145:8; 111:4; 116:5; Romans 2:4

4 – He does not reject or argue with divine justice [Romans 3:4], because Yahweh's verdict is always right.

5 – Man is sinful from the day he is born.

What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Job 15:14

Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one! Job 14:4

6 – God alone can bring a remedy to the sinful heart condition of man. Man is sinful through and through [Romans 3:9-20, 7:14]. Man cannot help himself or justify his sinfulness

12 – The prayer for restoration consists of 1) prayer for forgiveness [7, 9]; 2) prayer for renewal of joy [8]; prayer for a heart of wisdom and for full restoration to divine favor [10-12]

David received forgiveness; however, he suffered the ramifications of his sin, as Nathan foretold, for the rest of his life.

- The child from Bathsheba died.
- His son Ammon raped his sister Tamar.
- Absalom murdered Ammon.
- Absalom cause a civil war in Israel.
- Absalom slept with David's concubines – 2 Samuel 16:21 and 22.
- Joab killed Absalom.
- Joab remained a problem the rest of his life.
- Adonijah, David's son, tries to steal the kingdom from Solomon.

2Samuel 12:16-FF

1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13; 22 and 23 – God called David a man after His own heart.

Ezekiel 34:23; 37:24 – David will reign on the throne of Israel again when the Kingdom comes.

Matthew 1:6 – God did not forget Uriah or Bathsheba.