

2 Samuel 11:1-27 **David, Bathsheba, and Uriah**

Time for war – David remained in Jerusalem

¹ It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

Roof top view of Bathsheba bathing

² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

Kingly adultery

⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

Plot to cover sin failed

⁶ Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

Planned murder to free Bathsheba of her marriage

¹⁴ In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷ Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

Report to David

¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, ¹⁹ and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, ²⁰ if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?' ²¹ Who struck Abimelech the son of

Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?' — then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. 23 And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. 24 The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25 Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

Bathsheba became David's wife and bore him a son

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

God was displeased

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Time for war – David remained in Jerusalem [2 Samuel 11:1]

- ✧ The setting follows the war instigated by the king of Ammon who hired the Syrians to attack Israel and was defeated in the ensuing battle. [2 Samuel 10:1-19]
- ✧ David had sent comforters to Hanun king of Ammon after the death of his father Nahash.
- ✧ The Ammonites took David's comforters as spies and insulted them and Israel.
- ✧ That incident led to the war of [2 Samuel 10:1-19].
- ✧ Now that it is time for war, David is ready to settle the score with the Ammonites, so he sent Joab with the armies of Israel to destroy the people of Ammon and besiege the city of Rabbah. [2 Samuel 11:1]
- ✧ Joab had done such a good job of defending Israel at the previous battle, David did not feel the need to accompany the army on this mission, so he stayed in Jerusalem.

Roof top view of Bathsheba bathing [2 Samuel 11:2-3]

- ✧ David accustomed to vigorous activity, now being idle in Jerusalem, and walking on the roof of his house, looking out over his city, looked down on the house of his neighbor and saw a beautiful woman bathing.
- ✧ David made inquiry and learned that it was Bathsheba the wife of Uriah the Hittite one of his mighty men in the army he had sent to attack the Ammonites at the city of Rabbah. [2 Samuel 23:24-39, 1 Chronicles 11:26-41]
- ✧ The Hittites were among the nations God had originally commanded to be destroyed when Israel came into the Promised Land. [Exodus 3:8, 13:5, 23:23, 28, 33:1-2, 34:11-16, Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 20:16-18]
- ✧ People assimilated into the nation of Israel were to be treated as Israelites under the same law for the stranger as well as for the native-born. [Exodus 12:49, 1 Samuel 21:1]

Kingly adultery [2 Samuel 11:4-5]

- ✧ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child." [2 Samuel 11:4-5]
- ✧ David had demonstrated his weakness and attraction to beautiful women before with all the wives he had. [2 Samuel 3:2-5, 5:13]
- ✧ Bathsheba becoming pregnant by David while her husband was away at war became evidence of adultery.

Plot to cover sin failed [2 Samuel 11:6-13]

- ✧ The penalty for adultery is death for both the man and the woman. [Leviticus 20:10]
- ✧ The plot is to get her husband back with his wife so the baby will appear to be his own and legitimate.
- ✧ The plot failed, because Uriah refused to go home to his wife when he felt his place was in the battle for his king.

Planned murder to free Bathsheba of her marriage [2 Samuel 11:14-17]

- ✧ Desperation drove David to do the unthinkable for a godly man.
- ✧ David sent orders to the commander of the army to assure the death of Uriah in battle.
- ✧ Joab obeyed the command and sent Uriah with a contingent on a suicide mission and they were killed by the enemy.

Report to David [2 Samuel 11:18-25]

- ✧ The report sent back to David included the death of Uriah.
- ✧ David accepted the report as the cost of war and encouraged Joab to complete the mission against the Ammonites.

Bathsheba became David's wife and bore him a son [2 Samuel 11:26-27]

- ✧ Bathsheba, now widowed, was free from the bond of marriage and available for David to take as his wife after the proper time of mourning.
- ✧ She became David's wife and bore him a son.

God was displeased

- ✧ The whole sordid event was displeasing in the sight of Yahweh Who witnessed the entire event in detail even knowing the inner thoughts and motives involved. [2 Samuel 11:27, Psalm 139:1-2, Hebrews 4:12-13]