

Women in the Lineage of Christ

Week 8 — Bathsheba — 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25, 1 Kings 1:11-31

Prepare...

As you begin, take a moment to pray and focus on the Lord as you come into his presence and study his word.

You may want to use this prayer, based on Hebrews 4:12

God, your Word is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing my soul and spirit, my joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of my heart. I want to hear you through your word now.

Begin...

Read through the text twice. First read to gain a general understanding of the passage. Read a second time slowly, looking at each verse in detail.

To make sure you have understood the story of Bathsheba, answer the following questions (in your head or on paper).

2 Samuel 11

1. Where was David's army at the beginning of chapter 11?
2. Who does David see from the roof? What does he do next?
3. Why does David send for Uriah?
4. When David sends Uriah home, what is Uriah's response?
5. Where is the ark of the covenant at the time?
6. How does Uriah die?
7. What does David do right after?

2 Samuel 12

1. Who was Nathan?
2. Describe the story he tells in verses 1-4.
3. What was David's response to the story?
4. Nathan then confronts David. What will be the consequences of David's sins (v. 10-12, 14)?
5. What was David's next response?
6. When the baby was announced dead, what was the first thing David did?
7. Reread v. 24-25, what evidence do you see of God's restoration of David and Bathsheba?

1 Kings 1:11-31

1. When do the events of 1 Kings 1 take place?
2. Who was Adonijah?
3. Who does Nathan ask to approach King David?
4. What does she ask of him?
5. How does David respond?

Memory Verse for the Week...

Psalm 51:10-12

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from Me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

Historical background

Purification—Bathsheba had just become ceremonially clean after the seven-day period of impurity due to menstruation.

It would have been normal for her to bathe on the roof of her house. This was not seduction on her part.

Leviticus 20:10

"If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death."

Deuteronomy 22:22

"If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel."

Reasons for supporting Bathsheba's innocence:

- David should have been with his troops
- Bathsheba was bathing at night, when others would have been in bed
- She was in her courtyard, where she could have expected privacy
- David should have turned away when he saw Bathsheba
- David inquired who she was and learned she was a married woman
- He sent for her when her husband was away, David was the king, she was unable to refuse
- David was the actor, he lay with her. Bathsheba was the victim

—*Women of the Bible* by Sue Richards

Study Questions

1. Much is implied in **2 Sam. 11:1** "at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out...but David remained in Jerusalem." David was in the wrong place at the wrong time. The ark of the covenant, the center of worship and guidance for the people of Israel, was with the army (v 11).

David was away from God and his army, ignoring his duties, alone, vulnerable to temptation.

How could David have avoided falling into sin? What can we learn from his mistake?

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Prayerfully consider whether you are currently experiencing temptation in an area of your life. What steps can you take to protect yourself?

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2. David abused his royal power and used his God-given position to satisfy personal desires. He broke the 6th, 7th, and 10th commandments (Exodus 20). Read the verses from Leviticus and Deuteronomy in historical background. These are very severe laws. God did not require David's death, but there were consequences. List them below.

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How do you feel about these consequences?

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3. What do we learn about Uriah in chapter 11? Record your answers below.

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Contrast David with Uriah.

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4. Many people have differing opinions on Bathsheba's part in this affair. One view is included in the sidebar. What do you think?

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5. There is very little specific information about Bathsheba in these passages. However, what assumptions can we make about her by examining her relationships...

with Uriah?

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with David before his repentance?

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with David after his repentance?

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with Nathan?

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with Solomon?

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6. Imagine how Bathsheba felt...

when David called her to the palace

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when Uriah was killed

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when she married David

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when she lost her baby

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7. Bathsheba plays an important role in the life of King David. She reminds us of his humanity and failure to follow God at all times. We see David go from adultery and murder to forgiveness and restoration. If David can be forgiven, so can I. Read Psalm 32: 3-5 and Psalm 51 (both written by David). Have you allowed God to forgive and restore you?

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8. Now read 1 Kings 1:31. After David's (and presumably Bathsheba's) repentance, God transforms the relationship from aggressor and victim, to husband and wife. David comforted Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24-25). God restores them to Himself and blesses their son, Solomon. The name Solomon means "peaceful" and the name Jedidiah means "beloved of the Lord." They had four sons together (1Chronicles 3:5).

Only God can do this! Take a moment to praise God for His correction, His forgiveness, and His restoration.

Some scriptures for contemplation...

Psalm 32: 3-5

"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord' and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

from Psalm 51

"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice...Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from Me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

Personal Application