

## David

### Part 18

#### **2 Samuel 11 NIV**

**1** In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

- This first verse follows the account of Israel having gone to battle with the Ammonites and the Arameans in Chapter 10.
- In the account Israel was surrounded with battle lines drawn before and behind them. Joab and Abishai who commanded the armies in David's place, experienced partial victory. By the end of the chapter it is recorded that David got involved.

#### **2 Samuel 10:17-18 NIV**

**17** When David was told of this, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan and went to Helam. The Arameans formed their battle lines to meet David and fought against him. **18** But they fled before Israel, and David killed seven hundred of their charioteers and forty thousand of their foot soldiers. He also struck down Shobak the commander of their army, and he died there.

- The reason for going back and referring to chapter 10 is to remind us that as long as David was doing what God called him to do, he was victorious. The Battle with the Arameans was obvious to David.
- In Chapter 11 what we read a story that proves that not every challenge that David faced was that obvious.

## Vs. 2-5

**2** One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **3** and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” **4** Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. **5** The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

## Vs. 2

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace.

- The Hebrew verb form of **walked** suggests that David paced back and forth on the roof. He couldn't sleep and was uneasy - possibly David was uneasy because he wasn't where God wanted him to be.

In any case, David was awakened in the stillness of the night. A couple good questions to ask when you wake up in the middle of the night.

1. Am I awake because there is something unfinished, forgotten or of concern?
  2. Is the Lord waking me up to talk to me?
  3. Is the Devil waking me up to tempt me?
- In this case, I believe this is a picture of how the Devil works.
  - The Devil knew the situation; that Bathsheba was bathing at the exact time David woke up and in the line of sight to where David was...
  - Second; David didn't even know who she was... Scripture gives no indication that David ever knew anything about Bathsheba until this moment. This situation was unpremeditated and unexpected.

### **Genesis 3:1 NIV**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

### **KJV**

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field

- Ultimately the Devil hated David because David was God’s Anointed servant.
- If the Devil couldn’t stop David with Goliath...
- If the Devil couldn’t stop David in battle with Philistines and by other surrounding enemy...
- The Devil will become even more crafty - He will use a Saul to tempt David with bitterness and unforgiveness.
- If that doesn’t work he will place a beautiful daughter of a woman named Bathsheba beneath the king’s palace in the evening.
- All this has one purpose and that is to catch David off guard; so that David sins and abandons his purpose as God’s servant.

### **Song of Solomon 2:15**

Catch us the foxes,  
The little foxes that spoil the vines,  
For our vines *have* tender grapes.

### **Proverbs 4:23**

Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.

### **Ephesians 4:26,27**

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

## **1 Timothy 4:16**

**16** Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- David has never lost one battle on the battlefield. David, the man who single handedly took down Goliath. The man whose army just killed 40,700 enemy soldiers in battle, is now taken down by one pretty little 5'4" blond named Bathsheba.
- Why? because the David was caught off-guard and unsuspecting.

## **Song of Solomon 2:15**

Catch us the foxes,  
The little foxes that spoil the vines,

## **Vs. 6-15**

**6** So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. **7** When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going.

**8** Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. **9** But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

**10** David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

**11** Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

**12** Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the

next. **13** At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

**14** In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.

**15** In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

**16** So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. **17** When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

- When David received word that Bathsheba was pregnant he did what Adam and Eve did in the Garden. He sought to cover his shame.
- This is the normal human response to cover and avoid...
- For David he was not only trying to cover it up but he also slipped into a place where he was avoiding God. In the next chapter, we will see that God loves David too much to allow him hide for long.
- David's first attempt to cover up what he had done was to have Uriah sent home to be with his wife.
- When that didn't work David slips into an even darker place by plotting Uriah's death.
- This has to be the lowest spiritual point in the storyline of David. David, a man known as a man after God's own heart, one of the greatest examples of honor, loyalty and purity of heart has now slipped to the place of taking the life of one of his own loyal friends and mighty men.

- Anyone who thinks my decisions only affect me needs to remember this story. Our decision to honor God or disobey God will directly affect not only us but others around us.

### **Vs. 18-25**

**18** Joab sent David a full account of the battle. **19** He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, **20** the king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall? **21** Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn’t a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?’ If he asks you this, then say to him, ‘Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.’”

**22** The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. **23** The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. **24** Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.”

**25** David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”

### **David’s response this time is different:**

- Those who know David know he will most likely be upset when he hears the report that these men died in battle...
- David is known as a man who cares for his men and now he gives an uncharacteristic response. Vs. 25b “the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it...”

*“This was a proverb regarding fortunes of war. It was a way of saying, “These things happen.” David said it to his own guilty conscience as much as he said it to Joab.”* **Guzik**

## **Vs. 26-27**

**26** When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. **27** After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

**Vs. 26** is heart breaking - “When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him.”

- Commentators believe it’s very possible Bathsheba was never told the details of how her husband died and that David had arranged it in such a way. Nevertheless she still loved him and mourned his death.
- David then finish his plan and took Bathsheba to be his wife.

The last verse of the chapter says

**27b** “But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.”

- This is the first mention of God in the chapter.
- It’s a reminder that God witnessed every event and read the motive of every heart.

**It’s out of this season that David wrote:**

## **Psalms 32 NIV**

**1**

Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

**2**

Blessed is the one  
whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

**3**

When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**4**

For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.

**5**

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.

**6**

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;

- David's Psalm is proof the Lord tends to the hearts of those who belong to him.
- This shows that David didn't just walk away light hearted about this situation but was under intense conviction and aware of the blessing that comes from God's forgiveness.
- In the same way when God deals with us it is proof that he loves us.



## Closing:

### **2 Cor. 2:11**

in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Devil is a schemer, he is crafty and he is subtle. Lord make us aware of the Devil's schemes.

Like with David there are obvious battles and obstacles.  
There are also obstacles that are unsuspected.  
Lord make us aware of the unsuspected obstacles.