



## Family Christmas (with Bathsheba)

### Week 4

#### **Praise to God for today: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

Father, we thankful to be here today. When we consider our lives and many of the choices we have made, it is true, not many of us were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Lord, praise You that You chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; You chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; You chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are. Give

us grace to be completely humble, and patient, bearing with one another in love.

### **Prayer for the persecuted church:**

We pray for the church in Santa Marta, Caribbean Region of Colombia. We pray for the Christian children who live in the Sierra Nevada mountains of Santa Marta who are experiencing heavy persecution in their village. May they not fear, because You are on their side. What can man do to them? Give them strength. May they look in triumph on those who hate them.

### **Prayer for a local church:**

This morning we pray for our brother Daniels Stephens and Heaven's Call Church, since we heard about their church and the love they have for all the saints. We pray that the gospel we grow and bear fruit through that congregation.

Closing

**Introduction - what does Bathsheba have to do with the Christmas story? Everything really. If there is no Bathsheba, there is no Christmas story.**

### **• Family line explanation**

## **Matthew 1:1-6**

**1** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, **4** and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

## **2 Samuel 11**

**The story of David and Bathsheba and her husband Uriah the Hittite. While Uriah is away fighting for King David, the King notices his beautiful wife and basically steals her away. It's not nice to take someone else's wife.**

**Then Bathsheba finds out she's pregnant, so David commands Uriah to leave the battle and come home. Uriah comes home, but he is so faithful to his men who are away fighting that he doesn't feel it's right for him to enjoy time with his wife, so he doesn't.**

So, King David has Uriah sent to the very front lines where the fighting is the most fierce because he would have the greatest chance of getting killed there, which he does.

Once Uriah is dead, David marries Bathsheba. But God disciplines King David and the child doesn't live. Later, David and Bathsheba have another child together and they name him Solomon. And David makes a promise to Bathsheba that one day their son Solomon will sit upon David's throne. One day Solomon will be king.

## **1 Kings 1**

King David is very old now. And one of his sons, Adonijah, without his father's blessing or permission decides to set himself up as king. This is like declaring yourself to be president. "I do hereby coronate myself Grand Poobah of Everything Else That Nobody Has. Dilly, dilly."

## **1 Kings 1:5**

5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

He made a show of it. Many people today have this view of success. If people think

you're successful, then you'll become successful. That type of thinking. Buy expensive cars so people will think you're successful. Visualize it and it will be yours. This is all silly thinking and silly reasoning. It's not only silly. It's living a lie. Now we might ask, "Who wants to live a lie?" Well, the truth is — lots of people want to live a lie.

6 His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. 7 He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him. 8 But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David's mighty men were not with Adonijah.

9 Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent's Stone, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, 10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.

But Adonijah didn't get Nathan the prophet to accept his self-appointed kingship. Nathan the prophet spoke for God to the people. Often, he spoke for God to King David. He was the one who called King David to admit his sin in pursuing Bathsheba.

**Now, we find Nathan going to Bathsheba to ask her to use her influence with King David. This shows that Nathan felt that her influence would be greater than his alone. Because if Adonijah becomes king, he will have Bathsheba and Solomon killed because they both pose a threat to his being king.**

## **1 Kings 1:11-21**

### **Nathan and Bathsheba Before David**

**11** Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it? **12** Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. **13** Go in at once to King David, and say to him, ‘Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, “Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne”? Why then is Adonijah king?’ **14** Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words.”

**15** So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king). **16** Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, “What do you desire?” **17** She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your servant by the Lord your God, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.’ **18** And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it. **19** He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited.

**20** And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. **21** Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders.”

**22** While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. **23** And they told the king, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground. **24** And Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne’? **25** For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ **26** But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited. **27** Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

## **1 Kings 1:28-30**

### **Solomon Anointed King**

**28** Then King David answered, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. **29** And the king swore, saying, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, **30** as I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ even so will I do this day.” **31** Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

**So, David calls together all his leaders.**

32 King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king.

## **1 Kings 1:33-34**

33 And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ 35 You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.”

**There is a reason that Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and all the people shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” (John 12:13)**

**First, because it fulfilled prophecy written approximately 500 years before the birth of Christ:**

## **Zechariah 9:9**

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**Why a donkey? What has the theme of this Christmas series been? God uses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. He makes horrible sinners His children. And it confuses people who think of themselves as morally upright people. But all have sinned. Is there a sin that doesn't deserve God's judgment? If you think your sins are a small thing it's because you think God is a small matter.**

**We all need a Savior. Mother Teresa needed a Savior. She's not going to heaven because she's Mother Teresa. She's going to heaven because Jesus Christ is her Savior.**

**A donkey is the opposite of warhorses and military power. The warhorse was a symbol of the ungodly conqueror. The warhorse was a symbol of human pride and strength. Riding on a donkey expressed peace and humility. Riding on a donkey was like a great military leader riding in a parade on a bicycle rather than a tank.**

**That's why a donkey. Because God uses the foolish to confound the wise.**

**In a time of war, you ride a warhorse. In a time of peace, you ride in on a donkey. Jesus Christ has come to bring peace between you and God. The sins that bring a spiritual war in your heart in mind, the sins that you know you deserve God's judgment for — Christ takes away the condemnation you deserve. Because He died for your sins, He brings you peace with God.**

**36** And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, say so. **37** As the Lord has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.”

## **1 Kings 1:38-40**

**38** So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon. **39** There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!” **40** And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise.

**41** Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the

trumpet, he said, “What does this uproar in the city mean?”

**42** While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, “Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news.” **43** Jonathan answered Adonijah, “No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king, **44** and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule. **45** And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon, and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.

## **1 Kings 1:46-49**

**46** Solomon sits on the royal throne. **47** Moreover, the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.’ And the king bowed himself on the bed. **48** And the king also said, ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.’” **49** Then all the guests of Adonijah trembled and rose, and each went his own way. **50** And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. **51** Then it was told Solomon, “Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’” **52** And Solomon said, “If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die.” **53** So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”

What about this story is important for the way God unfolds his plan of salvation in history?

What Tamar who was a liar and Rahab who was a prostitute and Ruth who was a pagan outcast and now Bathsheba who was an adulteress show us about God's plan of salvation is that Jesus Christ didn't come for good people. He came for sinners. And all throughout the history of the nation of Israel, the people through which this Promised Savior would come, God adds Gentiles and outcasts and pagans and prostitutes to their number. God takes people who are not His people and He makes them His people. He takes the most unlikely people and makes them extraordinary.

Jesus Christ came for sinners, so it doesn't matter what type of sinner you are or what lie you have been trapped in or what false belief you've fallen for — Jesus Christ came to save you. He died in your place for all the sins you have committed or ever will commit. There is not a sin that you can commit or have committed that Christ has not paid for. And He rose again from the dead as a witness to the entire world that He alone has the authority to forgive sins. Your sins. Those

sins that others may still hold against you. Jesus Christ says they are forgotten.

You know why people derive comfort from the Christmas story? Because it's true.