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2 Samuel 11–12 | “The Sin of David And Bathsheba”

I. THE SIN OF DAVID. (11)

A. (v. 1)

1. **“And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.”**

a. *“after the year was expired”*

1) This was after the winter months and when the spring would come.

b. *“at the time when kings go forth to battle”*

1) This is usually around May, which was after the rainy season and the ground was hardened.

c. *“they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah”*

1) This was the continuation of the war that was broken up temporarily against Ammon (10:14), probably because the winter rains had come.

STEPS TOWARD THE FALL:

STEP #1: Taking it easy when there are still battles to fight.

d. *“But David tarried still at Jerusalem”*

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- 1) This was “*the time when kings go forth to battle,*” yet David is hanging back at Jerusalem. He had been very successful in his previous battles (8:6, 14; 10:17-19), but this time he hangs back and takes a nap. David should have been actively in battle with his people rather than alone relaxing!
- 2) **NOTE:** David is in the wrong place at the wrong time!

B. (v. 2)

1. **“And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.”**
 - a. “eveningtide” - Heb. “sunset; twilight”
 - 1) This was late in the afternoon when the breeze would begin to blow the cooler air.
 - b. “David arose from off his bed”
 - 1) It was common to take an afternoon nap.
 - c. “walked upon the roof”
 - 1) The roofs in those days were much like a patio, and you can still see them today in that area of the world.

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- 2) David’s palace would have been on the top of Mount Ophel, which would be a great view over the old City of David, from which he could see into many people’s courtyards.
- d. *“he saw a woman washing herself”*
- 1) This woman was *bathing* out in the open courtyard.
 - a) Some commentators view this as immodesty on her part.
 - b) Other commentators, however, say that it could have just been where the immersion pool was located and she may have assumed that nobody could see her.
 - i. She did bath for the purpose of ritual and purification after her monthly cycle (v. 4), which shows that she was not pregnant at this time.

STEP #2: Failing to Look Away!

- 2) **KEY:** One of the famous lies in society today is that it’s okay to look as long as you don’t touch. That’s STUPID!!
 - a) Lust in the heart always leads to outward action.
 - i. Cf. **James 1:13-15** - *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with*

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evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

- ii. Cf. **Matthew 5:27-30** - Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”
- b) Don't fool yourself, those that look at pornography will end up fornicating or cheating on their spouse.
 - i. It might not happen right away, but you will begin dulling the conscience until you act out on it.
- c) **Q** = Men, how do you respond when you're scrolling through social media and you see

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a girl in a bikini? Women, how do you respond when you see a buff stud?...

- e. *“the woman was very beautiful to look upon”*
 - 1) The text says that the woman was *extremely attractive*, but he should have looked away, or even RAN AWAY like Joseph!!
 - a) Cf. [Genesis 39:7-12](#)
 - b) **NOTE:** You can’t help it if a girl is attractive, but what are you going to do with that draw?!
 - i. **Illust.** - Years ago, when I was working for Hawthorne Machinery (CAT dealer), there were guys that knew I was a Christian, so they would try to push my buttons and test me. A few times, they came with a picture of a naked woman to put in front of me. I immediately had to walk away, and say, “How do you think my wife would feel if I looked at that? I love my wife and don’t want to disrespect her. And more than that, I love Jesus and don’t want to disrespect Him.” Anyways, after some time, the guys began to respect me, and when one guy was moving to Texas, he came to me and said that he’s going to start going to church again. But, trust me, it’s only by God’s grace that I was able to stand strong! I’ve liked girls since I was 5 years old! 😂

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- 2) Cf. **Romans 13:14** - *“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*
- a) **Q** = How do I practically *make no provision for the flesh?*...
- i. Fill your mind with God’s Word.
 - ii. Listen to worship music.
 - iii. Pray constantly.
 - iv. Be transparent with a trusted brother or sister of the same sex.
 - v. For some, delete the apps that are stumbling you. For others, get rid of all digital devices.
 - vi. Don’t go to places that will draw you into sin.
 - a. Don’t go to bars, night clubs, or strip clubs.
 - b. You know your own limits, so just abide by those limits.

C. (v. 3)

1. “And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

a. “Bathsheba” - Heb. “Daughter of an Oath”

1) She is also called “Bathshua” (**1 Chron. 3:5**).

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- 2) She is the daughter of *Eliam*.
 - a) The father is also called *Ammiel* (1 Chron. 3:5).
 - i. “*Eliam*” - Heb. “*God of the people*”
 - ii. “*Ammiel*” - Heb. “*The people of God*”
 - b) If this is the same *Eliam* as mentioned later (23:34), it would mean that Bathsheba was the granddaughter of Ahithophel who will play a role in the story of Absalom.
- 3) Her husband was *Uriah the Hittite*.
 - a) Uriah was a “*Hittite*”.
 - i. This could mean that Uriah was a Gentile.
 - a. He may have been a convert to Judaism.
 - b. He may have been a slave of war.
 - ii. Or, he may be an Israelite who lived in the Hittite area.
 - a. The name “*Uriah*” is Hebrew and means “*YHVH is Light*”.
 - b) Uriah was one of David’s mighty men (23:39).
 - i. **NOTE:** When David found out that she was the wife of one of his mighty men, he should have walked away. She’s off the market.

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- a. You see the downward trend: When he saw her bathing, he should have walked away. Then, when he heard she was married, he should have walked away. Again, when he heard that she was married to one of his might men, he should have ended it.

STEP #3: It should have been over when he heard the word “wife.”

D. (v. 4)

1. “*And David sent messengers, and took her;...*”

STEP #4: He actively pursued a married woman.

- a. This act is NOT REALLY A SECRET!
 - 1) Since he *sent messengers*, there will be some that know that David is committing adultery and will now view him as a hypocrite.

2. “*...and she came in unto him, and he lay with her;...*”

- a. “*she came in unto him*”

STEP #5: He put himself in a situation alone with her.

- 1) The Text does not indicate that she resisted David.

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- a) We do not know why she was complicit, either out of fear or vanity.
 - b) What we do know is that Bathsheba was an ambitious person (1 Kings 1:11-21) and that she ended up close and loyal to David (2 Sam. 12:24; 1 Kings 1:28-31).
- 2) However, the Text puts all the blame on David!

3. *“...for she was purified from her uncleanness:...”*

- a. The Mosaic Law did not allow sexual intercourse until after the ceremonial cleansing after her monthly cycle is over (Lev. 12:2; 15:19-24).
 - 1) **NOTE:** This is the paradox of hypocrisy. They obey the Law in Leviticus 18:19, but then they disobey Leviticus 18:20.
 - 2) **KEY:** There are some people that deceive themselves because they are obeying certain parts of the Bible, yet they are disobeying other parts!

4. *“...and she returned unto her house.”*

- a. The Progression of DAVID’S SIN:
 - 1) He saw. (v. 2)
 - 2) He enquired. (v. 3)
 - 3) He yielded to temptation. (v. 4)

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STEP #6: He got another man’s wife pregnant.

E. (v. 5)

- 1. “And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.”**
 - a. Sexual relations outside of God’s plan for marriage can end up in unintended pregnancy, which has consequences.
 - 1) **Q** = The question is, how should one respond to that mistake?
 - a) Bathsheba brought it to light.
 - b) David tried to cover it up.
 - b. Under the Law, Bathsheba is now in danger of the death sentence (**Lev. 20:10**).
 - c. Cf. **Proverbs 28:13** - “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

STEP #7: He tried to cover up his sin! He will try to cover his sin of adultery with *murder!*

F. (v. 6-16)

G. (v. 17)

- 1. “...and there fell some of the people of the servants of David;...”**

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- a. These guys were collateral damage because David is trying to cover his sin.
 - 1) Sometimes we think that our sin only affects ourselves, but there are others that can have devastating effects because of our sin.

H. (v. 21)

1. “Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”

- a. Joab knew that this was not a good military strategy from their history in the Scriptures ([Judges 9:50-57](#)), and he thinks that David might use that illustration to show the foolishness of going so close to the wall of the city.

I. (v. 26)

1. “And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.”

- a. “mourned” - Heb. “wailed; lamented”
 - 1) Mourning would formally last for 7 days.
 - 2) David’s sin and cover up, along with Bathsheba’s consent, led to David being a murderer and Bathsheba becoming a widow.

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J. (v. 27)

1. **“And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.”**

STEP #8: He cared more about pleasing himself than pleasing the Lord!

- a. *“But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD”*
 - 1) Too many people only think about their own pleasure, but have no regard to what God thinks about it.

II. **THE JUDGEMENT OF DAVID. (12)**

A. (v. 6)

1. **“And he shall restore the lamb fourfold,…”**
 - a. David knows what God’s Word says concerning this crime (**Exodus 22:1**).

B. (v. 8)

1. **“And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.”**
 - a. There are some that want to use this verse as a proof-text for God sanctioning polygamy. However, I do not

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believe this is what the Text is saying. I believe that God is speaking about the throne and dynasty more than polygamy.

- 1) It as the ancient cultural practice of a new king to kill the family of the previous king (dynastic slaughter) and to take the royal harem until himself. If the royal harem were much older (which probably would have been the case with Saul’s wives), they would be killed along with the previous king’s children.
- 2) David promised that he would not harm the house of Saul ([1 Sam. 24:21-22](#); [2 Sam. 9:1](#)), so God giving Saul’s wives to David was to take care of them, not necessarily marry them.
 - a) They were probably given similar treatment as Mephibosheth ([2 Sam. 9:11-13](#)).
- 3) There is nothing in the Text that suggests that David married any of Saul’s wives.
 - a) **NOTE:** When you compare the various translations of this verse, I think that comes out:
 - i. **(NKJV)** - “I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives ***into your keeping***, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!”
 - ii. **(NIV)** - “I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives ***into your arms***. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too

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little, I would have given you even more.”

iii. **(NASB)** - “I also gave you your master’s house and put your master’s wives ***into your care***, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!”

iv. **(RSV)** - “and I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives ***into your bosom***, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.”

4) **KEY:** David was given Saul’s possessions, as well as the care of Saul’s wives, along with the throne over Israel and Judah.

C. (v. 9)

1. **“Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight?...”**

a. David violated God’s Law:

1) “Thou shalt not murder.”

2) “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

3) “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife.”

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- b. This was the root issue that led to adultery and murder! He despised the Word of God!
 - 1) Cf. **Titus 1:16** - *“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”*

STEPS TOWARD THE RESTORATION:

STEP #1: The Lord brought it into light!

- 2. ***“...thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.”***
 - a. **NOTE:** David tried to hide his sin from man, but he couldn’t hide it from God.
 - 1) God knows and sees everything! You cannot hide your sin from Him.
 - a) Cf. **Hebrews 4:13** - *“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*
 - 2) Because of God’s love, He confronted David and brought his sin to light.
 - a) Cf. **Numbers 32:23** - *“But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: **and be sure your sin will find you out.**”*

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- b) Cf. [Hebrews 12:6](#) - “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”
 - c) Cf. [Revelation 3:19](#) - Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”
- b. **KEY:** God loves you too much to allow you to continue in sin forever! You might feel that you’re getting away with it, but He won’t let you.

STEP #2: David confessed his sin in repentance!

D. (v. 13)

1. **“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD...”**

- a. Here we have David’s confession, and we find more details of David’s confessions are recorded in [Psalm 51](#).

2. **“...And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.”**

- a. Here we see the Lord’s mercy, and we have the details of what was going on in David in [Psalm 32](#).

E. (v. 14)

1. **“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.”**

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- a. **Q** = Why would God allow the baby to die because of David’s sin?...
- 1) Whenever I get the “why” questions of God, I really don’t know. ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#))
 - 2) However, whenever there are things I don’t know, I fall back on what I do know. Here’s what we do know:
 - a) God is good and all-loving! ([Romans 5:8](#))
 - b) The taking of the life of the child was not a judgment on the child, but upon David.
 - c) This passage indicates that David’s child was taken to heaven upon its death ([v. 23](#)).
 - i. In that culture, there was a lot of shame of illegitimate children from an illicit relationship, thus the child would have been spared a lot of drama and was able to go straight to heaven.

F. (v. 15-20)

STEP #3: David accepted the consequences and worshiped the LORD! (v. 15-20)

G. (v. 23)

1. ***“But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”***

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- a. **Q** = Do those who die in infancy go to heaven?... I believe they do!
- 1) The Bible speaks about an age *before* a child is morally accountable.
 - a) Cf. **Isaiah 7:16** - “For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.”
 - b) Cf. **Jonah 4:11** - God wanted to spare the city of Nineveh because there were over 120,000 little kids “*that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand*”.
 - 2) David believed in life after death and the resurrection (**Psalm 16:10-11**), so when he said that he would go to his son after his death, he implied that his infant went to heaven.
 - 3) David wrote in Psalm 139 of an unborn baby as God’s creation whose name is written in God’s “book” in heaven (**Psalm 139:14-16**).
 - 4) Jesus said, “*Allow the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.*” (**Mark 10:14**)
 - 5) Jesus also said that children have a guardian angel “in heaven” who watches over them. (**Matt. 18:10**)
 - 6) The death of Christ made little children savable, even before they believed (**Rom. 5:18-19**).
 - 7) Jesus also indicated that those who did not know were not morally responsible (John 9:41), thus

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those are not able to believe would go to heaven.

- a) However, there is no heaven for those who are old enough and refuse to believe! ([John 3:36](#))
- b. **Q** = What is the age of accountability?... I don't know. I think it would be whenever the child can reason for themselves and make a decision.

H. (v. 29)

STEP #4: David got back in the fight with God's people!

I. (v. 30)

1. “And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.”

- a. “a talent of gold” = ~75 lbs
- b. “it was set on David's head”
 - 1) I'm sure he didn't wear it for very long!

J. (v. 31)

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1. ***“And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.”***
 - a. Some commentators believe that this simply means that David put them under forced labor, with no torture involved. However, though it’s not clear from this verse, we do know that David did indeed put them under torture ([1 Chron. 20:3](#)).
 - 1) **NOTE:** The Ammonites were judged and cursed for curse in kind because they were guilty of the same actions against God’s people ([1 Sam. 11:2](#); [Amos 1:13](#)).

K. Some PERSONAL APPLICATIONS from this passage:

1. **We cannot be like others in the world because we belong to, and represent, the Lord.**
 - a. David couldn’t be like other kings in the Middle East because he is a Theocratic king. Thus, God dealt differently with him.
2. **Don’t put yourself in a situation where you will be tempted.**
3. **It is foolish to try and cover up your sin.**
 - a. Once you try to cover it up, you have to keep compiling and compiling until it’s even worse than the original act!

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- b. We may try to cover up our sin for a time, but God still sees it and will deal with it.
- 4. Just know that any secret sin, once exposed, can ruin your reputation and testimony.**
- 5. Know that there is forgiveness for any sin that you have committed if you confess and repent.**
- 6. However, realize that there may be some longterm consequences of sin, even after forgiveness.**
 - a. All sins are forgivable, but not all sins can be rectified in this life.
- 7. There is a way to avoid sin.**
 - a. You have the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Flee fornication.
 - c. If you have idle time, use it wisely!
 - d. Don't sit around, get in the fight and fulfill your ministry to the body of Christ and to the world!