

A Study of 2 Samuel 12

I. Outline.

1. Nathan's Parable and David's Confession (12.1-15).
 2. The Death of David's Son (12.16-23).
 3. Solomon is Born (12.24-25).
 4. Rabbah is Captured (12.26-31).
- NKJV Headings.

II. Summary.

In this chapter we find a TURNING POINT in the life of David. Up to this point, even though he had suffered greatly because of Saul's vile jealousy and determination to kill him, David's life had been blessed in amazing ways by Almighty God. The prophet Nathan has a message for the king and boldly (and in a beautiful way), presents the truth to David. Because of his sins of the previous chapter, David will now be facing severe and difficult consequences the rest of his life. Because of his genuine repentance, God forgave him, but there were still consequences of his sin that would be devastating. Sin is never a blessing and David's experience shows that truth powerfully. The child born of his adulterous act will die. Verse 23 provides **one of the clearest statements of the confident longing for life after death in the entire Bible**. God blesses him with other sons of Bathsheba (1 Chr 3.5), though. Solomon is one of them. After a long siege, Joab wants David to have the honor of the final disposition of the Ammonite enemies at Rabbah. David has the honor of taking the CROWN of the Ammonite king.

III. Chronology/Lists/Links.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the United Kingdom.

If you are not familiar with the **15 Bible Periods**, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/wl79hp7>

LISTS: SOURCE: *Dake Study Bible*.

1. **Three Sins Charged to David (v. 9):** (1) You have despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight: (2) You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the children of Ammon; (3) You have taken Uriah's wife.
2. **Nathan's EIGHT Prophetic Statements regarding David's Future:** (1) The sword shall never depart from your own house (10); (2) I will raise up evil against you out of your own house (2 Sam 12.11; 15.1—18.33); (3) I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor (2 Sam 12.11; 15.16); (4) He shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun (2 Sam 12.11; 16.21-23); (5) You did that secretly, but I will do this before ALL Israel, and before the sun (2 Sam 12.12; 16.21-23); (6) The Lord has put away your sin. You shall not die (13). (7) Because of your sin you will cause the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme (14); (8) The child that is born shall surely die (14).
3. **20-Fold REAPING of David:**
 1. Wars all his days (2Sam. 12:10; 15:1--2Sam. 18:33; 20:13-26; 21:15-22)
 2. Rebellion against him in his own house (2Sam. 12:11-12; 15:1--2Sam. 18:33)
 3. His own wives forced to commit adultery with his own son (2Sam. 12:11-12; 16:20-23)
 4. Public exposure of sins to all Israel (2Sam. 12:12; 15:1--2Sam. 18:33)
 5. Causing enemies of the Lord to blaspheme in all generations of sinners (2Sam. 12:14)

6. Death to the child by Bathsheba (2Sam. 12:14)
7. Days of fasting and prayer without an answer (2Sam. 12:16-18)
8. Being disgraced by his own son who defiled his daughter (2Sam. 13:1-22)
9. Murder of one son by another (2Sam. 13:23-36)
10. Banishment of another son (2Sam. 13:37-39)
11. Enmity between him and his banished son (2Sam. 14)
12. Deserted by his own people (2Sam. 15:1-12)
13. Betrayed by his own friends (2Sam. 15:12-13)
14. Banishment from his own country and kingdom (2Sam. 15:13--2Sam. 18:33)
15. Cursed by an ordinary servant (2Sam. 16:5-14)
16. Death of another son and much people of Israel (2Sam. 18:7-18)
17. New strife between the tribes (2Sam. 19:41--2Sam. 20:3,13-26)
18. Loss of ten concubines (2Sam. 20:3)
19. Revolted against by another son (1Ki. 1:5-9)
20. Loss of many Israelites (1Ki. 11:10--2Ki. 2:46)

LINKS:

1. Coffman: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/2-samuel-12.html>
2. Does the Case of David and Bathsheba Justify Adultery Today?, Wayne Jackson, <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/570-does-the-case-of-david-and-bathsheba-justify-adultery-today>
3. Did David Sin against God Only?, Wayne Jackson, <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/197-did-david-sin-against-god-only>
4. Was David Really a Man after God's Own Heart?, Wayne Jackson, <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/378-was-david-really-a-man-after-gods-heart>
5. What about the Sins of Bible Heroes?, Wayne Jackson, <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/272-what-about-the-sins-of-bible-heroes>
6. But What about David and Bathsheba's Marriage?, Dave Miller, <http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&article=4184>
7. 3 AUDIO Sermons from our brother: David Sproule: "David & Bathsheba: Real Lessons on the Power of Sin,"
<http://www.pblcoc.org/media/audio/936>
<http://www.pblcoc.org/media/audio/937>
<http://www.pblcoc.org/media/audio/938>

IV. Aids in Exposition.

1. **Nathan's Parable and David's Confession (12.1-15)**. Many great lessons are to be found in Old Testament studies, and particularly from the prophets. One of the most obvious ones is that they knew WELL the POWER of a good word picture. Nathan certainly knew about it. His approach to the powerful king (who had now had months to REPENT of his terrible sins, yet had not), was to paint a picture for him. He painted such an ugly picture of sin that David reacted in the very way that he needed him to react (vv. 5-6). "*Unknown to David, he had just condemned himself [the rich man] for having stolen the only wife [the little lamb] from one who had so tenderly loved her, her husband Uriah [the poor man],*" --*Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible*. In verses 7-9 Nathan reminds David of the ways he has been blessed and the horrible sins he

has committed. Verses 10-12 have Nathan providing God's judgment upon him for those sins he had tried to hide. **What a blessing is verse 13.** How wonderful to know that we worship and serve a God of grace and mercy Who is willing to forgive those who deal with sin in the appointed way. Before leaving Nathan announces that the child will die.

2. **The Death of David's Son (12.16-23).** David knew God and spent his time fasting and praying with the strong desire that God would change His mind and allow the child to live. On the 7th day, the child did die. David did not wag his finger at God and rebel against the judgment. He knew well that it was his own fault. He penned the great penitential psalm, Psalm 51. The innocent child, of course, would be blessed with an eternal home in heaven. What a strong and filled with hope statement we find from David in verse 23—2 Samuel 12:23 **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.**
3. **Solomon is Born (12.24-25).** 1 Chronicles 3.5 shows Bathsheba bore David four sons. Rex Turner argues that the order these sons are listed in the Chronicles strongly indicates that Solomon was the youngest. When all of the Bible references are considered, there is a very strong likelihood that five or more years intervened between the death of the first son and the birth of Solomon, though Solomon's birth is mentioned in 2 Samuel without mention of the birth of Shimea, Shobab, and Nathan. **AND THE LORD LOVED HIM**, of verse 24 is an amazing statement. Of course, the same can be said of every child that has ever been born, but there is something striking about reading those words here. Solomon means *peaceable*; the name Jedidiah means, "*the beloved of the Lord.*"
4. **Rabbah is Captured (12.26-31).** Verse 28 indicates that the siege of Rabbah was successful and Joab has led the Israelite soldiers to a great victory. It is time for David to come so that he can be honored for conquering the city, rather than Joab receiving such an honor. Mention is made in verse 30 of the king's crown taken by David which weighed a talent of gold. This would have been about 75 pounds. Does not sound like it would be safe to wear on your head. Some have suggested that others held the crown above David's head; or perhaps it was fixed in some way to the throne of that Ammonite king.

V. Think about it...

TEN Lessons from David & Bathsheba on the POWER of Sin. (*Adapted from David Sproule—see audio files listed under section III above.*)

01. **Often there are PLANS MADE IN ADVANCE to sin (2 Sam 11.1).** Everything is NOT revealed to us about this situation described in verse 1. It is possible that this chapter does NOT record the first time David saw Bathsheba. It is possible he had seen her many times. Whether or not such is the case, in reality, we know that many times plans are made well in advance of committing sin with the very goal in mind of doing some particular sin.
02. **If we linger around sin too long, SIN will be the ultimate result (2 Sam 11.2).** The moment David first saw Bathsheba was NOT sinful. He could have turned away immediately and saved himself from devastating problems. He lingered and allowed the thought of sinful pleasure to take control of his heart and demand action which broke God's laws.
03. **I must be CONSTANTLY AWARE that MY actions can lead another to sin (2 Sam 11.2).** It is easy to give Bathsheba a pass for bathing in a place where she could be seen by others. Some would say it was just the culture of that time. Many can come up with ways to defend

her, but the fact remains that someone was able to see her nakedness and it led to terrible sins and heartache.

04. **Everybody has the opportunity to say NO to sin, because SIN is a CHOICE we make (2 Sam 11.4).** The choice we read about here, made by two people, was not forced upon them; they both should have made different choices.
05. **Sin CANNOT be hidden from God (2 Sam 11.5).** The sin of David and Bathsheba was near to being discovered. What would the powerful king do? He would make an attempt to use his power to cover up his sin. Men may be fooled, but God was not deceived.
06. **Trying to hide sin IN MAN'S WAY just simply won't work (2 Sam 11.6).** There is ONLY one way to hide sin from God and that is through the shed blood of Jesus. In the letter David sent to Joab, he was saying: I WILL FIX IT—I will make it appear that the baby is Uriah's. Sometimes men think: *Well I've done this evil thing, maybe I can atone for it by doing all of these good things.*
07. **Sin so often COMPOUNDS into more and more sin (2 Sam 11.9-15).** The only way to deal with sin properly is to do so RIGHT WHEN IT IS KNOWN.
08. **Sin is so dangerous because IT LETS A MAN GET WHAT HE WANTS (2 Sam 11.26-27).** Until you get to the very last part of verse 27, and then into the next chapter, it looks like David got what he wanted.
09. **Sin CAN BE FORGIVEN (2 Sam 12.13).** This is the very best news to be found in the Bible. It is extremely HARD to say: **I HAVE SINNED** and truly mean it!!! King Saul said it in 1 Samuel 15 but didn't mean it. Saul merely desired to maintain the good graces of Samuel. David said it and did mean it—indicated by the fact that he wrote Psalm 51 about this time.
10. **Sin, though forgiven, DOES HAVE ITS CONSEQUENCES (2 Sam 12.13).** Study carefully, prayerfully, and at length, the list above: **20-Fold REAPING of David.**

VI. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ It is not revealed that the Lord caused the child of David and Bathsheba to become sick.
02. _____ There was a LOT of the spoils of war from the victory over the Ammonites at Rabbah.
03. _____ David fasted when the child died.
04. _____ God had protected David from the danger to him caused by King Saul's jealousy.
05. _____ David was charged with despising the Lord.

I Found it in Verse(s)

06. _____ Another name for Solomon.
07. _____ Saws.
08. _____ Restoring the lamb fourfold.
09. _____ Elders intending to raise David up from the earth.

10. _____ A never departing sword.

Short Answer

11. Happened when David heard Nathan's message.

12. The 6th thing David did after the child died.

13. What God would have given David if all He had given had been too little.

14. The point at which David knew the child had died.

15. Another name given for RABBAH.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to 2 Samuel 11 Questions... 01—; 02—; 03—; 04—; 05—; 06—; 07—; 08—; 09—; 10—; 11—; 12—; 13—; 14—; 15—.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL 5.82Wx6.32H

B T H I N G D S C C S
 D R E S S T G E G I L
 E N D R H H A R R T O
 A A A A E E T V E Y R
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 C H I L D R E N T P K
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 L L H F L O C K T A M
 D I U R I A H O U S E
 T A K E W I F E R T E
 S A I D R D K I N G D

BECAUSE	CAME	CHILD	CHILDREN	CITY
DAVID	DEAD	DEPART	DRESS	FAST
FLOCK	GATHER	GREAT	HERD	HOUSE
ISRAEL	KING	LORD	NATHAN	RETURN
SAID	SERVANTS	TAKE	THEN	THING
URIAH	WIFE			

VIII. Crossword Puzzle.

2 Samuel 12 (KJV): From Your Friends at Maple Hill Church of Christ 3960 Scale RD, Benton, KY 42025 http://maplehillchurchofchrist.blog												
	1										2	
		3										
4	5											
						6		7				
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<u>ACROSS</u>	<u>DOWN</u>
01) The Lord told David he had ____ Uriah the Hittite.	01) David's anger was greatly ____.
03) Said: The Lord also hath put away thy sin.	02) God said David had despised it.
04) That upon which David lay.	05) Word used to describe the spoil of Rabbah.
08) God did this for David.	06) David had given enemies of the Lord opportunity to ____.
09) Rabbah was also the city of ____.	07) One of the things David did for the child when it was alive.
11) David ____ Bathsheba, his wife.	10) They were precious.
13) The servants ____ to tell David of the death of the child.	12) David's response to Nathan's parable was the man shall surely ____.