

1  **DAVID AND BATHSHEBA: ROCK BOTTOM**

2 Samuel 11

2  **WARRIORS & POETS**

- Warriors and Poets: A verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter study through the united kingdom period of Israel and Judah.
- "In the whole of the Old Testament literature there is no chapter more tragic or full of solemn and searching warning than this." (G. Campbell Morgan)
- David's sin with Bathsheba will prove to be one of the great defining moments of his life: We will forever be saying, "David was a great king... But."

3  **THE WAY DOWN**

- The Setup – David's sin with Bathsheba did not come out of the blue. David had developed a habit of gratifying his lustful desires and rejecting God's design for marriage over the last 20 years.
- The Encounter – David *saw*. David's many wives did not satisfy his lust. You can't *satisfy* lusts of the flesh, because they are primarily rebellious assertions of self. It wasn't so much that David wanted Bathsheba; it was that he would not be satisfied with what God gave him.

4  **THE WAY DOWN**

- The Pursuit - David could have ended the temptation at any time. But David has developed a habit of gratifying his own desires whenever he feels like it, so he sends and inquires as to who the woman is.

5  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING**

- The essence of this series in a sentence: Jesus is a better king.
- Christ's temptation was greater than David's in scale and magnitude:
  - The Setup – Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights
  - The Encounter – Christ was also in a high place: a high mountain from which he was offered "all the kingdoms of the world"
  - The Pursuit – Christ chose to pursue joy rather than temporary gratification

6  **ROCK BOTTOM**

- As we continue the story of David and Bathsheba, we will see what David does when he hits rock-bottom and is confronted with the earliest consequences of his sin.
- Rather than seeking repentance or restoration, David will try to cover up his sin, and in so doing will break another one of the Ten Commandments.

7  **THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES**

8  **BATHSHEBA IS PREGNANT**

- v. 4b-5 -- *Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."*
- David's sin has immediate consequences -- in this case, Bathsheba becomes pregnant. This is something that either David or Bathsheba should have known was a possibility, but neither of them (Bathsheba seems to be complicit in this sin -- certainly we are given no indication that she made any attempt to resist) are thinking about the consequences in the

moment of their sin.

9  **THE PRUDENT AND THE SIMPLE**

- The ability to see the danger posed by temptation and turn away from it is one of the characteristics of wisdom:
- *"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it."* -- Proverbs 27:12

10  **THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

- It is also one of the characteristics of the Fear of the Lord, which is the "beginning of wisdom.
- The immediate consequence of David's sin is a pregnancy which will almost certainly cause his sin to be revealed to the nation.
- The long-term consequences of David's sin will take many years to work out, and arguably do not end with David's death.
- 1 Timothy 5:24 -- "The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later."

11  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING**

- Christ was mindful of the consequences of his choices:
- *...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* (Hebrews 12:2)
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12  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING**

- *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:9-11)
- Jesus chose the glory and joy His Father had set before him over the temporary pleasures of the world. It is the ultimate act of Perspective.

13  **THE COVER-UP**

14  **THE COVER-UP**

- v. 6-9 -- *"So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house."*

15  **THE COVER-UP**

- David's immediate response to the consequences of his sin is not repentance, but rather a cover-up. He calls Uriah home from the front lines, ostensibly to get some report of the war from him.

- He then sends Uriah home, hoping that he will be intimate with his wife and that people will believe that the baby belongs to Uriah.
- But Uriah is a just man and a good soldier, and he sleeps with the other servants of the king, rather than going to his own house.

16  **THE COVER-UP**

- v. 10-11 -- *When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."*

17  **MORE JUST THAN DAVID**

- So David has a problem: Uriah is a good and a just man (better and more just than David at this point) and will not enjoy the pleasures of home while his men are still in the field, fighting the enemies of Israel.
- David then begins to resort to some more creative methods of trying to get Uriah to spend the night under his own roof:

18  **MORE JUST THAN DAVID**

- *Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. (2 Samuel 11:12-13)*
- This too fails, and David is faced with the realization that Uriah is too honest and too incorruptible. He will have to come up with another way to deal with the consequences of his sin.

19  **THE MURDER OF URIAH THE HITTITE**

20  **DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES**

- David has once before taken the wife (Abigail) of a man who has recently died (Nabal). Now, in an attempt to cover up his sin, he tries to pull off the same thing again a second time.
- There's just one minor detail: Uriah needs to die.

21  **THE DEATH OF URIAH**

- *In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died. (2 Samuel 11:14-17)*

22  **THE DEATH OF URIAH**

- Uriah literally carries his own death warrant to Joab – unaware, of course, because Uriah is a just and honorable man and would not have betrayed David's trust.
- While Joab does not follow David's request to the letter, he has already shown himself more

than willing to be David's hatchet-man (and will do so again). He puts Uriah in a place in the lines where he knows the resistance will be particularly fierce, and Uriah is killed in battle.

23  **THE DEATH OF URIA**

- *Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. And he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'" So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. (2 Samuel 11:18-22)*

24  **THE DEATH OF URIA**

- *The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him." (2 Samuel 11:23-25)*

25  **DISPLEASING THE LORD**

- David's reaction to Uriah's death is basically: "Well, that's war for you" and then he encourages Joab to keep up the good fight. It is important that everything appear safe and normal.
- When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. (2 Samuel 11:26-27)

26  **DISPLEASING THE LORD**

- David has successfully gotten Uriah out of the way. Sure, things will look suspicious to anyone paying attention (or anyone who knew Uriah well), but with Uriah dead, who will raise an objection against the king? After all, didn't Uriah die in battle?
- But David doesn't get away with what he's done, because what he's done *displeased the Lord*.
- An unexpected pregnancy is not the only consequence David will have to face.

27  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING**

- All of David's efforts are put toward avoiding the temporal consequences of his sin ("getting caught") rather than seeking restoration or reconciliation.
- Jesus is a better king, because although he had no sin (and therefore no judgment), he took the ultimate consequences of our sin upon himself.
- He took David's sins upon himself, too.
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28  **WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?**

- What sin are you trying to dodge? Where are you trying to escape the consequences of your sin?
- Attempting to cover up sin will only multiply your sorrows and deepen your guilt.
- Have you given the final guilt of your sin over to Christ?