

united kingdom

DAVID &
BATHSHEBA

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

(2 Samuel 11:1-27)

Despite God's promise to him, King David is not perfect. He sins. He allows his own desires to break his relationship with God.

Introduction

It's springtime, and kings should be at war. But David stayed home.

David and Bathsheba

David wakes up from a nap and sees a woman bathing.



He sends a [messenger](#) to discover her identity, and discovers that she's the wife of Uriah, one of his most loyal friends. He sends a [messenger](#) for her, and she comes to his palace. They sleep together.

She discovers that she's pregnant and sends a [message](#) to David.

David and Uriah

David sends a [message](#) to bring Uriah back. He tries to send him home. Uriah refuses – “I won't go be comfortable in my own home when the army is on the battlefield.” David tries to get him drunk. It doesn't work.



David and his commander



David writes a [letter](#) to his [commander](#) to put Uriah on the front lines and pull back from him. He sends the letter with Uriah.

The commander obeys David. Uriah dies. The commander sends a [message](#) to David.

David marries Bathsheba

Bathsheba mourns Uriah's death. After the period of mourning, David takes Bathsheba as his wife. Bathsheba has the baby.



God is not pleased with David

Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. Look through the story at the words highlighted in blue – which each represent a different person involved in this saga. How many different messengers and people did this story affect? Put yourself in the position of one of the messengers. What are you thinking about David? About Bathsheba? About Uriah?
2. Put yourself in the position of David's army commander. You receive the letter asking you to place one of your most loyal soldiers on the front lines to die. What are you thinking? Do you obey or not?
3. Retell the story to yourself. Jot down each decision David made – even the smallest. (e.g. David stays home, David takes a nap, David watches a woman taking a bath, etc.) Note the progression of decision-making. Now go through your day yesterday. Jot down each decision you made – even the smallest. Are there patterns in your decision-making? Are your patterns healthy? Or are they like David's? If you sense that you've started traveling down an unwanted path, how can you turn around? Stop now before it goes too far – talk to God about it. You'll see in the next story that you will never go too far to be out of reach of God's forgiveness!

Meditate on the following passages:

1. Genesis 4:7 (God talks to Cain and warns him about sin.)
2. John 10:10 (The enemy, the one who wants us to sin, has only our destruction in mind.)
3. Romans 7:14-25. But don't stop there! Read on, to Romans 8:1-17. There is hope for restored relationship!