

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 11-12

2 SAMUEL 11:1-5 - DAVID & BATHSHEBA

2 SAMUEL 11 TAKES PLACE DURING ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST THE AMMONITES (WHICH BEGAN IN CHAPTER 10).

V. 1 - "BUT DAVID STAYED IN JERUSALEM..." - RATHER THAN BEING ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE, DAVID IS AT HOME. THIS CHOICE LEADS TO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. FOR HAD HE BEEN LEADING THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL, HE WOULD HAVE NEVER HAD BEEN TEMPTED TO TAKE THE SECOND GLANCE AT BATHSHEBA, WHICH IN TURN LEADS TO THE SNOWBALL EFFECT OF SIN.

OH HOW THIS IS A LESSON FOR US. WHEN WE LET UP IN THE BATTLE, WHEN WE TAKE A DAY OFF, WHEN WE REST RATHER THAN FIGHT, THE DEVIL GAINS ACCESS TO US. THINGS MAY NOT CHANGE IN A DAY, BUT WE PUT OURSELVES IN A VULNERABLE POSITION WHICH LEADS TO EVENTUAL SIN. DAVID'S SIN WILL INCLUDE LUST, ADULTERY, LYING/DECEIT, AND MURDER. BUT HIS FIRST SIN WAS TO NOT BE WHO AND WHERE GOD HAD CALLED HIM TO BE.

V. 5 - BATHSHEBA BECOMES PREGNANT AND BECAUSE OF WHO AND WHERE HER HUSBAND IS, IT IS CLEAR THE CHILD IS NOT UURIAH'S. THIS IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM FOR BATHSHEBA, BUT EVEN MORE SO FOR DAVID.

2 SAMUEL 11:6-13 - DAVID CALLS FOR UURIAH, TRIES TO COVER HIS TRACKS

V. 6 - UURIAH THE HITTITE WAS ONE OF THE ELITE SOLDIERS OF DAVID'S ARMY.

V. 8-13 - DAVID'S ATTEMPTS TO GET UURIAH TO HAVE SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH BATHSHEBA SO THAT THE PREGNANCY WOULD BE BELIEVABLE AS UURIAH'S, ALL FAIL.

UURIAH IS A MAN OF GREAT INTEGRITY AND HONOR.

DAVID'S ACTIONS ARE VERY "SAUL-LIKE". PARANOID, COVERING HIS TRACKS, ADDING SIN UPON SIN. IN THIS RECORD, UURIAH IS PLAYING THE ROLE OF DAVID AND DAVID IS SAUL.

2 SAMUEL 11:14-15 - DAVID'S LETTER TO GENERAL JOAB REGARDING UURIAH

Q - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF DAVID'S ACTION?

2 SAMUEL 11:16-17 - UURIAH DIES

LUST (V. 2) → INQUIRY (V. 3) → FORNICATION/ADULTERY (V. 4) → PREGNANCY (V. 5) → DECEPTION, PLOTTING, LIES (V. 6-13) → MURDER (V. 14-17)

2 SAMUEL 11:18-25 - REPORT OF THE BATTLE REACHES DAVID

V. 25 - DAVID'S FEIGNED ENCOURAGEMENT...

2 SAMUEL 11:25 (NLT) - "WELL, TELL JOAB NOT TO BE DISCOURAGED," DAVID SAID. "THE SWORD DEVOURS THIS ONE TODAY AND THAT ONE TOMORROW! FIGHT HARDER NEXT TIME, AND CONQUER THE CITY!"

2 SAMUEL 11:26-27 - BATHSHEBA BECOMES DAVID'S WIFE.

FROM THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, YOU COULD IMAGINE THAT THIS WAS LOOKED AT AS AN ACT OF GREAT COMPASSION BY DAVID. MARRYING AND CARING FOR THE WIDOW OF ONE OF HIS GREATEST SOLDIERS, TRAGICALLY KILLED IN BATTLE!

AS WE LEAVE CHAPTER 11 AND BEGIN CHAPTER 12 IT IS CLEAR THAT DAVID IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT HIS SIN. HE IS FORGETTING THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON KNOWS, AND IS NOT PLEASED.

2 SAMUEL 12:1-6 - NATHAN BEFORE DAVID

V. 2-4 - NATHAN TELLS A PARABLE WHICH APPEALS TO DAVID'S PRIDE IN BEING A JUST RULER, AN ADVOCATE FOR THE OPPRESSED.

V. 5-6 - *"SURELY THE MAN WHO AS DONE THIS DESERVES TO DIE"* - WOW.

2 SAMUEL 12:7-12 - NATHAN CONFRONTS DAVID FOR HIS SIN

V. 7 - "YOU ARE THE MAN"

V. 12 - DAVID PROBABLY IMAGINED THAT HIS SIN HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED BY THE LORD. AFTERALL, HE ATTEMPTS TO COVER HIS SIN BY MARRYING BATHSHEBA. THE CHILD, CONCEIVED IN SIN, IS BORN. JOAB DIDN'T SELL HIM OUT AND DAVID'S OTHER SERVANTS ARE IN THE DARK. HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE, SEATED ON HIS THRONE, RULING OVER MATTERS OF THE KINGDOM AGAIN. BUT HE IS A FOOL IF HE THINKS THAT HIS ACTIONS ARE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE OR IGNORED BY THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE. NATHAN MAKES SURE DAVID KNOWS THIS. REMEMBER THE WORDS GOD SPOKE TO SAMUEL REGARDING DAVID AT HIS ANOINTING:

1 SAMUEL 16:7 - BUT THE LORD SAID TO SAMUEL, "DO NOT LOOK AT HIS APPEARANCE OR AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS STATURE, BECAUSE I HAVE REJECTED HIM (DAVID'S OTHER BROTHER); FOR GOD SEES NOT AS MAN SEES, FOR MAN LOOKS AT THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART."

THESE WORDS ARE TRUE OF DAVID WHEN HIS HEART IS RIGHT, THOUGH HIS OUTWARD APPEARANCE SEEMS WRONG, AND IT IS TRUE WHEN HIS OUTWARD APPEARANCE LOOKS GOOD BUT HIS HEART IS WRONG.

2 SAMUEL 12:13-15 - DAVID'S RESPONSE AND CONSEQUENCE

V. 13A - "I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD..." AT FIRST GLANCE THIS CONFESSION SEEMS SIMPLE, EVEN TRITE. BUT REMEMBER OTHER INSTANCES IN SCRIPTURE WHERE GREAT MEN ARE CONFRONTED FOR THIS SIN. MOST NOTABLY ADAM WHO DEFLECTS AND MAKES EXCUSES. AND MORE RECENTLY, SAUL, WHO NEVER ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS BEHAVIOR BUT SQUIRMS AND DEFLECTS. DAVID'S INITIAL CONFESSION IS SHORT, BUT PERHAPS IT IS IN HIS FEW WORDS THAT DEMONSTRATE THAT HE "GETS IT."

(OF COURSE WE ALSO SEE THE FULL EXTENT OF DAVID'S HEART IN PSALM 51, WHICH IS MOST LIKELY WRITTEN AFTER THIS EXCHANGE.)

V. 13B-15 - THOUGH DAVID IS SPARED FROM DEATH AND GREATER PERSONAL CONSEQUENCE TO HIMSELF OR THE NATION, THERE IS CONSEQUENCE FOR THE REASON OF "BY THIS DEED YOU HAVE GIVEN OCCASION TO THE ENEMIES OF THE LORD TO BLASPHEME (V. 14)." THE AMMONITES APPEAR TO HAVE A GREAT VICTORY OVER ISRAEL BY KILLING THE GREAT WARRIOR UURIAH. YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE THEM RETURNING TO THEIR TENTS REJOICING OVER HOW THEY HAD DEFEATED THE ARMIES OF YAHWEH. GOD WAS NOT GOING TO ALLOW THAT.

DAVID HAD TRIED TO HIJACK THE RESULT OF HIS SIN (THE CHILD) AND CLAIM IT AS A BLESSING FROM THE LORD (WHICH CHILDREN ARE). THAT IS WHY THE LORD BROUGHT JUDGMENT UPON DAVID THROUGH THE DEATH OF THIS CHILD.

ALSO, AS WAS MENTIONED IN VS. 10-11, THERE WAS GOING TO BE LASTING RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS SIN IN THE HOUSE OF DAVID. WE WILL SEE THIS UNFOLD IN THE REMAINING CHAPTERS OF 2 SAMUEL.

2 SAMUEL 12:16-25 - DAVID'S PRAYERS FOR HIS CHILD

V. 23 - DAVID RECOGNIZED THAT THE DEATH OF HIS CHILD WAS A RESULT OF HIS SIN - HE DID NOT BLAME THE LORD.

V. 20 - AFTER IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE LORD'S DECISION WAS FINAL, DAVID GETS UP, CLEANS UP AND GOES TO THE LORD AND WORSHIPPED. HE IS NOT OVERWHELMED BY FALSE SHAME OR A PITY PARTY - BUT ZEALOUSLY LONGS TO BE BACK IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE. HE DIDN'T IGNORE OR MINIMIZE HIS SIN, BUT HE WANTED TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD/NEED TO DO, TO GET BACK TO THE LORD.

V. 24-25 - DAVID COMFORTS HIS WIFE (WHO, ALTHOUGH COMPLICIT, HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT AT THIS POINT IN OUR STORY). GOD WILL BLESS DAVID & BATHSHEBA WITH ANOTHER CHILD, SOLOMON. THE LORD'S FAVOR WILL BE UPON SOLOMON. IN FACT, THE LORD LOVES SOLOMON AND DAVID GIVES HIM A SECOND NAME AS A REFLECTION OF THIS. "JEDIDIAH" MEANS "BELOVED OF YAHWEH."

PSALM 51

IT'S AMAZING TO SEE THE GREATNESS OF GOD AS THIS TRAGIC STORY CONCLUDES. BOTH DAVID AND THE LORD COULD HAVE HANDLED THIS SO DIFFERENTLY. YET DAVID RESPONDS WITH A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART AND THE LORD RESPONDS WITH COMPASSION AND LOVINGKINDNESS. THE STORY BEGINS WITH DAVID'S SELFISHNESS AND FOOLISHNESS, AND ENDS WITH GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE. THOUGH DAVID'S SIN COST HIM GREATLY AND THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF HIS DECISIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH HIS LIFETIME, THE LORD DOES NOT CAST HIM AWAY FROM HIS PRESENCE. AND IT IS THE LORD AND HIS CLOSENESS TO DAVID THAT DAVID DESIRES ABOVE ALL ELSE.

REFLECTIONS:

1 - IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU "STAYING IN JERUSALEM" RATHER THAN AGGRESSIVELY ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE?

2 - HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO SIN? DO YOU MAKE EXCUSES? DO YOU DEFLECT? DO YOU BLAME OTHERS? DO YOU RUN OR HIDE?

3 - WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CONCERN WHEN YOU SIN? YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? YOUR BEHAVIOR'S EFFECT ON OTHERS? CONSEQUENCES? OTHER PEOPLE FINDING OUT?

4 - WHEN TROUBLE COMES AS A RESULT OF YOUR SINFUL CHOICES OR BEHAVIOR, HOW DO YOU REACT? DO YOU GET MAD AT GOD? DO YOU BLAME THE DEVIL? DO YOU GIVE UP? DO YOU SEEK THE LORD? DO YOU ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY?

5 - AFTER YOU SIN, HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO GET BACK TO WORSHIPPING GOD? WHY?