

Purpose

- To learn more about David
- To learn about Bathsheba

Background Information

DAVID

Israel's greatest king, David, is the central character in 2 Samuel. David gets a lot of press in the Bible. In fact, 62 chapters of scripture tell his story, more than any other Old Testament personality. Joseph has 14 chapters, the prophet Daniel has 12 and the prophet Elijah has less than 10. In addition, David is referred to 59 times in the New Testament, more than Abraham or Isaiah. It seems that God uses David to teach us some very important things.

1 Samuel tells us about Samuel, Saul and the early years of David's life. It covers 115 years. 2 Samuel covers only 40 years.

David returned from a battle in the south to learn of the death of Saul and Jonathan. David grieved over both of them, but especially Jonathan. David moved to Judah. While in Judah, he was first crowned over his own clan of Judah. For 7 1/2 years, he reigned from Hebron. Now was the time for David to make a bold move to unite the people of Israel. He captured Jerusalem, then a very small town, from the Jebusites (the Canaanites). Because of their location and the proximity of the water source, he was able to make a headquarters in that spot. From here, he united the whole kingdom and reigned for 33 more years. David was a very gifted individual. He was a loyal friend, a great warrior and a fine judge of character. The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. David prospered at this point in his life, because he turned to God for guidance. He respected the religious traditions and knew how to keep the loyalty of the priests. Even when God said no to David's request to build a permanent temple in Jerusalem, David responded with humility and obedience. It was not until David had grown older and his family was torn apart by jealousies that David found himself at odds with some of the priests.

As so often happens, when things are going well, he became vulnerable to personal failure. He turned his eyes away from God, and they fell on a beautiful woman. Men can be gullible when it comes to a beautiful woman.

BATHSHEBA – His Downfall

In the spring, it was typical that kings would go off to war. This time, David sent Joab out with the soldiers and the whole Israelite army, but he stayed in Jerusalem. One evening he witnessed a woman bathing on the roof, and she was very beautiful. Her name was Bathsheba, and she was the wife of one of David's loyal warriors. Thus began David's affair with Bathsheba. Bathsheba became pregnant, and David plotted and ordered the murder of her husband. David's heart began to harden, and he was not able to deal lovingly with his family. Several of his children were killed. In David later years, his leadership collapsed. God sent a prophet Nathan to point his finger at David and to reveal David's sin. David confessed his sin, but the consequences still came. 2 Samuel 13-24 lists the consequences that befell David in his later life.

1. One child conceived with Bathsheba got sick and died.
2. David's son Amnon raped his half sister and then was murdered.
3. Absalom, another son, rebelled and rose up to drive David from Jerusalem.
4. Absalom was killed and David collapsed in grief.
5. God struck Israel with a plague, and 70,000 people died.

By the opening of 1 Kings, David was old and senile. Another son, Adonijab, was attempting to take the throne by force. On his deathbed, David lost all ability to rule. Bathsheba was determined that her son should take the throne after David. Only the quick action of Bathsheba and Nathan allowed Solomon to be crowned king. Solomon became the next king of Israel.

Procedure

- Be prepared to tell as directed on 12-1.
- Do 12-2 and 12-3 for fun.