

2 Samuel 11:1-6
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A Great Man's Great Sin

Related Topics: David; Bathsheba; Uriah; Joab; Ahithophel; Weak Heroes; Sexual Sin; Consequences of Forgiven Sin; Steps to a Fall; Sin Is Against God

INTRODUCTION:

One of the great proofs that the Bible is indeed the very Word of God is that the many accounts of it's heroes are in absolute keeping with the Nature of God. The Bible says that God is HOLY. Holy means more than moral perfection. It means that God is separate from His creation. He is other than His creation.

Other supposedly Holy Writings always paint their religious heroes as flawless. THAT is the dead give away that such writings are were undertaken by men moved by demons BECAUSE it is the nature of man to COVER his flaws. We see that all the way back to the original sin. The first man and woman COVER their nakedness and then the man blames the woman! Even when man might not outright LIE about his failure, he will at the least withhold any part of the truth that puts him in a bad light. But the Bible say Numbers 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie. God, who is other than His creation, other than mankind, will not cover up or gloss over the sins of His servants, even the greatest of His servants.

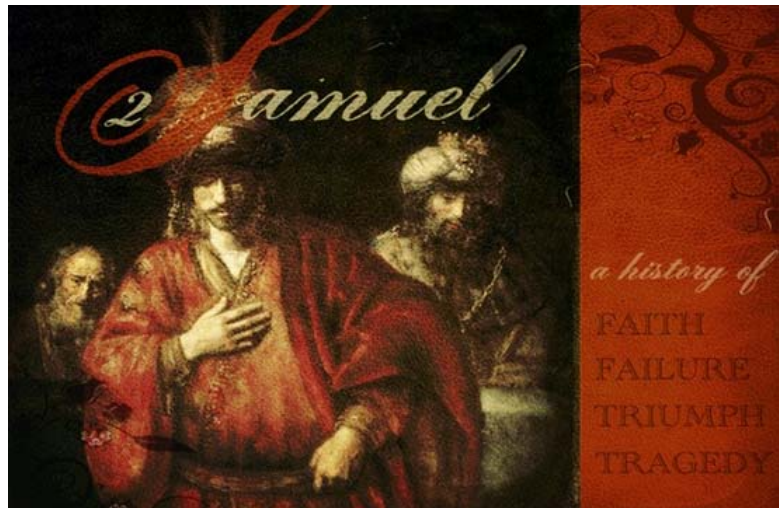
- Noah's drunkenness
- Abraham's lying
- Aaron's jealousy
- Moses' anger
- Elijah's cowardice
- Jeremiah's depression

Though they are men of God, they are still men. Men that are vulnerable to every human weakness. [James 5:17](#) says that Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are. It is in their human frailty that the GRACE and the POWER of God are MAGNIFIED! It is interesting to note how in the O.T. there is SO much said about the failures of these men, while in the N.T. there is NO mention of their failures! THAT is because the O.T. deals with the REALITY of their lives while the N.T. deals with their POSITION in Christ in eternity. In the Old Testament, before the Cross of Jesus, God NEVER covered up their FAILURES and TRAGEDIES. But when they are mentioned in the New Testament, God records their FAITH and their TRIUMPHS, because they now stand on THIS SIDE of the cross. Having said that, we do not want to respond foolishly to the GRACE and MERCY of God because the Old Testament shows to us the CONSEQUENCES of FORGIVEN sin.

We come tonight to [2 Samuel 11](#)

QUOTE:

G. Campbell-Morgan "In the whole of the Old Testament literature there is no chapter more tragic or full of solemn and searching warning than this."



I must say that I have never been so, and I hope you don't misunderstand me, TERRIFIED by the way God sets forth the reality of even the GREATEST HERO of faith GREATLY SINNING. Here in [2 Samuel 11](#) we see David FALL in a BIG way!

There is a way in which the term "FALL" almost diminishes the gravity of what David did because we can think of FALL in terms of a sudden trip over a curb. In reality David WALKED into this sin one step at a time.

ILLUSTRATION:

In Georgia – there is a huge boulder called Stone Mountain. Some years ago a young man walked across it. As he walked, the massive boulder was so large that it's curvature was almost imperceptible. He went further and further until suddenly he felt the pull of gravity overcoming him. He thought he could back up but it was too late and some 40-50 people heard him scream as he fell to his death. THAT is the way sin is the downward pull is almost imperceptible. But there comes a MOMENT when you take ONE more step and suddenly you are beyond the point of escaping it's downward pull.

CHAPTER 11

[2 Sam 11:1](#) In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel.

WE REMEMBER from our study last week that the war with Ammon is the backdrop to this moment in David's life. Our study closed last week with David defeating the Syrians (who joined the Ammonites as mercenaries against Israel). The Chapter begins about 1 year later, while David is still FLUSH with victory! If there is a Biblical constant it is that we are MOST susceptible to a fall following a great victory.

the time when kings go out to battle. . . .

We can not think of Old Testament military practices in modern day terms. In that ERA and in that PART OF THE WORLD wars were not normally fought during the winter months. Rains and cold weather made travel and campaigning difficult, so military campaigns resumed in the spring.

[2 sam 11:1](#) And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

NOTE:

The connection of these two phrases

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle.... David remained at Jerusalem

The opening and closing of the verse tell us that something is wrong. It is not observable to the human eye up to this moment. To the casual observer everything about David probably looked great. In fact, in light of Israel's military victory over Syria and the expansion of David's rule into that region, things might have looked better than ever on the OUTSIDE! But there had to be something wrong in David's heart for the Holy Spirit to record, the kings go out to battle, but this king does not. Also, all Israel went out to battle, but Israel's leader did not.

QUOTE:

Redpath – "As I think of what happened, of this I am sure, that it did not happen all at once. This matter of Bathsheba was simply the climax of something that had been going on in his life for twenty years."

WOULD YOU NOTE THIS WITH ME:

What a man or woman does is NOT the measure of that person! HERE in the opening verse is the FIRST STEP to a Fall. When he SHOULD have been battling he was kicking back. I'm sure David felt justified. He's been ruling in Israel for 20 years. He has spent his life in war, or fighting for his life. I've survived Goliath. I've survived Saul. I've led Israel to a greatness It's never known. I DESERVE a break!

[2 Sam 11:2](#) It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

There is nothing that tells us that David was LOOKING for sin! But when we are someplace where we should not be, we are NOT doing things that we OUGHT to be doing Sin HAPPENS!

[2 Sam 11:2](#) when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house,

The roof top in the Middle East is not like the pitched roof-tops of our culture. They are FLAT. In the day of David they would rise at daybreak, and always took a nap during the heat of the day. Afterwards they lounged in the cool of the evening on their flat-roofed terraces. Even to this day you see Arabs and Jews on their roof tops. When in Jerusalem we go to the site of the House of Caiaphas (where Jesus stood trial the night before He died). There we actually go on to the roof top and look down into the Himnon valley and see all kinds of activity on the roof tops below us.

[2 Sam 11:2](#) that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

THERE is the SECOND STEP to a Fall. David was in the WRONG place looking at the WRONG thing, a woman bathing. Verse 4 tells us that she was "purifying herself from her uncleanness" after her menstrual period. We find this prescribed in ([Lev. 15:19-24](#)). For all of you Law and Order / CSI: New York types, this tells us clearly that the child who would be conceived in ([2 Sam. 11:5](#)) could not be the child of Uriah. She had a menstrual period WHILE Uriah was on the battle field. He saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. For a woman to make herself ceremonially pure after her menstrual cycle was perfectly normal and perfectly acceptable, but the PLACE in which Bathsheba did an acceptable thing was UNACCEPTABLE.

Many commentators believe that she was very deliberate in choosing WHEN and WHERE to bathe. We just saw this past week in our Bible Bus reading for Saturday that Bathsheba was a very BRIGHT and PERCEPTIVE woman. She was PERCEPTIVE enough to see the plans of Adonijah to take the throne of Israel from Solomon. Based on what we know of her it is not a stretch to think that Bathsheba knew WHERE the king was in his palace instead of on the battle field, WHEN the king would be on his roof, WHAT the king could SEE from his roof, and thus decided to purify herself WHEN he would be on his roof and WHERE he could see her.

Was Bathsheba stupid or was she seductive? We can't know for sure. It is SAD when you see women on the hunt, out to get a man, but it is also sad to see women without discretion

[Proverbs 11:22](#) Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.

Ladies, keep this in mind, especially now that warm weather is rolling around, don't be like a ring in a pig's snout. DON'T think, well, the brothers shouldn't be looking at me like that, after all, God looks on the heart! YES, but the Holy Spirit also said that MAN looks on the outward appearance! BE CAREFUL that you do NOT stumble your brother in Christ!

HAVING SAID THAT BROTHERS, DON'T make the same mistake that David made! David's sin was not in merely seeing Bathsheba. It was unlikely that he expected or planned to see her. David's sin was in choosing to keep his eyes on an alluring image after the sight came before his eyes. LISTEN UP MEN, We have got to learn to NEVER let our eyes (or our mind) REST on any alluring image apart from for what "belongs" to us in marriage.

Those of you that are married would hopefully say, "Hey, I'm in love with my wife, I'm quite content with my wife." But the problem is not that you don't love your wife, the problem is that the FLESH and it's lusts are NEVER satisfied.

CRUCIAL:

The flesh is essentially the assertions of self.

QUOTE:

F.B. Meyer, "FLESH — drop the H and spell flesh backward, SELF"

It wasn't so much that David wanted Bathsheba; it was that he could not be satisfied with what God gave him. This is a reality that will be proven in an exaggerated way in the life of his son, Solomon. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines and 1000 women weren't enough for him.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

Bathsheba's great beauty made the sight tempting, but the real strength of temptation often does not lie in the quality of the tempting object. It lies in the state of heart and mind of the one being tempted. No matter how beautiful Bathsheba was this was not an inescapable temptation. Joseph was more severely tempted to commit sexual sin immorality than David was here, but he fled that temptation.

CRUCIAL:

Joseph's decision in the moment of temptation was the result of seeing the situation with a right heart.

He was a young guy in the peak of his masculinity. He would have been attracted to beauty in the same way any young man in here would, BUT MORE than the allurements of Potiphar's wife, Joseph saw the great wickedness of giving into the temptation.

[Gen. 39:9](#) How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?

Sin ALWAYS appeals to lust of the eyes; possessions in this case, getting the guy, securing the relationship. Sin ALWAYS appeals to the pride of life, in this case, sexual conquest. It is the pleasures of sin ([Heb 11:25](#)) that deceive us like the bait hides the hook. We must call it what God calls it, sin. We want to say, "affair" but God says "adultery." We want to say, "love" but God says "lust." We want to say, "romantic" but God says "ruin." We want to say, "destiny" but God says "destruction."

[2 Sam 11:3](#) 3And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

KEY INSIGHT:

Bathsheba came from a family of notable men and was married to a notable man. Her father was Eliam — one of David's Mighty Men ([2 Samuel 23:34](#)).

KEY:

Her grandfather was Ahithophel, one of David's chief counselors ([2 Samuel 23:34](#), [2 Samuel 15:12](#)). We find this man involved in the treacherous attempt by David's son Absalom to overthrow king David. He will actually counsel Absalom to have sex with David's concubine on the roof top in order to publically humiliate David. Her husband, Uriah, was another of David's Mighty Men ([2 Samuel 23:8, 39](#)).

Now we come to the THIRD STEP to a Fall. Rather than FLEEING youthful lust, he FOLLOWED his lust. David could have ended the temptation by leaving the roof top and hanging out with the ugliest male servant in in

the palace

EXAMPLE: El Modena H.S. P.E. class. Just newly married! Hot weather, very attractive young woman dressed very immodestly. I am a newlywed and I said, "Lord, I love my wife. I don't want to lust after this young girl." The Holy Spirit reminded me of [2 Tim. 2:22](#) "Flee youthful lusts!" At the court farthest away from the girl were two really over weight, acne faced guys. I walked down there, NO lust issues there! VICTORY!

[2 Sam 11:4](#) *4So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.*

CRUCIAL:

David committed adultery in his heart up on the roof. Now he knows that he has an opportunity to physically commit adultery. Adultery in the heart and mind is bad; adultery in practice is far worse. David should have received the news of the woman's identity as a warning. He learned that this woman was related to men who were very CLOSE and very IMPORTANT to himself. By having sex with Bathsheba David sinned against men close to him and important to him.

(Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. [2 Sam 11:5](#) *5And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."*

QUOTE:

Keil and Delitzsch — Her message "involved an appeal to him to take the necessary steps to avert the evil consequences of the sin, inasmuch as the law required that both the adulterer and adulteress should be put to death" ([Leviticus 20:10](#)).

THINK ABOUT THIS! David knew this was wrong, yet he did it. Have you ever seen or heard of someone doing something wrong and asked, WHAT WAS HE THINKING? REALITY, He did what he did because he wasn't thinking!

QUOTE:

Ricky Ryan — Get out while you can think because there will come a point when you STOP thinking!

WOULD David have gone after this pleasure that was clearly outside of the the revealed will of God (Thou shalt not commit adultery / covet your neighbor's wife) if he knew that it would directly or indirectly result in an unwanted pregnancy, the murder of a trusted friend (Uriah), a dead baby, his daughter raped by his son (Tamar by Amnon), one son murdered by another son (Amnon by Absalom), a civil war led by one of his sons (Absalom) who was counseled by Ahithophel (the Grandfather of Bathsheba).

REALITY — The same kind of ruin comes of adultery today.

It is HORRIBLE to think about all the children who go to bed without a daddy at home because of the terrible attack on our country on September 11, 2001. , but far more children go to bed every night without their daddy because of adultery.

[Proverbs 5:7-11](#) *And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,9 lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, 10 lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, 11 and at the end of your life you groan....*

THAT is the description of a man who has destroyed his family and his own life for the pleasures of sin for a season in an adulterous relationship. Another man has gotten all of his wealth. Another man now has his wife and his children. NOT ONE MAN OR WOMAN HERE, single or married, can afford to think of such a tragedy as only happening to OTHER men and women. If you have seen it happen to someone else, and without a doubt many of you here this evening are the collateral damage of sexual sin, you have got to KNOW that you are not

above or beyond such failure.

That moral failure has a BEGINNING, it begins with thinking that somehow YOU can play with fire and NOT get burned! Can flirt with the idea of flirting and not get burned. Can take the second look and not get burned.

[Proverbs 6:27-29](#) Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?²⁸ Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?²⁹ So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

It starts with a look. It starts with a thought. And from our text in 2 Samuel we can see it also deals with the woman's response to the looks of the man. Those exchanges of looks. But Richard, I'm already singed, I already have 3rd degree burns, what now?

[Isaiah 53:4-6](#) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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