

The Story, chapter 12 **(excerpts from 2 Samuel 11-12, 1 Chronicles 29)**

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her... Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."...Uriah the Hittite died.

The Lord sent Nathan to David.

Nathan shared a story with David about a rich man taking the sheep of a poor man to share with a traveler. David cursed the rich man in the story.

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!..."

David and Bathsheba's first baby died, but their son Solomon grew up to be king. David spent the rest of his life preparing to build the temple of God. The people gave freely and wholeheartedly to the work. Near the end of his life, David gave this speech:

Then King David said...: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God... Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?". The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

[David said]... Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the Lord your God." So they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the king.