

## The Life of David – Lesson 12

# David and Bathsheba

### 62. Bathsheba

*II Samuel 11:1-27, I Kings, 15:5, 1037 B.C., Age 48*

- Bathsheba – “daughter of the oath”
- Bathsheba’s husband Uriah was one of David’s mighty men (II Samuel 23:39, I Chronicles 11:41) as possibly was her father (compare II Samuel 11:3 with 23:34). She was also possibly granddaughter of David’s advisor Ahithophel (compare II Samuel 23:34 and 16:23).
- The text is a very basic account that leaves much to the imagination, but the Scripture clearly places full responsibility on David for his actions.
- One sin leads to another, so David’s adultery leads to Uriah’s murder.
- vs. 27 – “Be sure your sin will find you out.” – Numbers 32:23

### 63. Nathan Confronts David

*II Samuel 12:1-15, 1036 B.C., Age 48*

- vs. 3-4 – This story must have struck a personal chord with David the former shepherd.
- vs. 6 – David’s judgment will prove to be four-fold as will see in this lesson and those that follow.

#### ♪ **Psalm 6**

- *Neginoth* – stringed instruments
- *Sheminith* – literally “eighth”. May refer to a style, type of harp, or the bass.
- J. Vernon McGee – “...Psalm 6 is a penitential psalm, a cry of repentance, and plea for mercy.”

#### ♪ **Psalm 38**

- Spurgeon – “David felt as if he had been forgotten of his God, and, therefore, he recounted his sorrows and cried mightily for help under them.”

#### ♪ **Psalm 39**

- Jeduthan was one of the chief musicians – I Chronicles 16:41

#### ♪ **Psalm 51**

- “This Psalm is the brightest gem in the whole book, and contains instruction so large, and doctrine so precious, that the tongue of angels could not do justice to the full development.” – Victorinus Strigelius (1524-1569), as quoted in *The Treasury of David*.

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## 64. Death of David and Bathsheba's Child

*II Samuel 12:16-23, 1036 B.C., Age 48*

- This is the first of David's Four-Fold Judgment
- We previously examined this in the lesson "What David Knew About Heaven".

### ♪ Psalm 32

- B.H. Carroll – "But if Psalm 51 is the highest expression of penitence, Psalm 32 is the model expression of the joy of forgiveness."
- vs. 1-2 are quoted by Paul in Romans 4:6-8.

## 65. Birth of Solomon

*II Samuel 12:24-25, 1035 B.C., Age 50*

- *Solomon* – "peaceable". God gave him this name (I Chronicles 22:9)
- *Jedidiah* – "beloved of the Lord"

## 66. Capture of Rabbah

*II Samuel 12:26-31, I Chronicles 20:1-3, 1034 B.C., Age 50*

- It appears Joab had been left in charge of the siege but made sure David won the victory in the final assault.
- Concerning the treatment of prisoners in II Samuel 12:31 and I Chronicles 20:3:
  - There are two interpretations of what happens to the conquered Ammonites: (1) they were tortured or killed with saws, axes, furnaces, etc., or (2) they were forced to labor with saws, axes, furnaces, etc.
  - I think the best interpretation is the first, though our modern sensibilities balk at believing David would do such things.
    - B.H. Carroll: "The weight of authority seems to favor the 'torture' interpretation..."
    - The law of war demanded that all men in a captured city be killed – Deuteronomy 20:10-14
    - The Jews generally operated under *lex talionis*, the law of retribution ("eye for an eye", etc.). The Ammonites had a history of cruelty which would have led to such a reprisal. (I Samuel 11:1-2, II Samuel 10:1-4, Amos 1:13)