

# II Samuel 11-16

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Historical Books II  
Lecture #12

# II Samuel

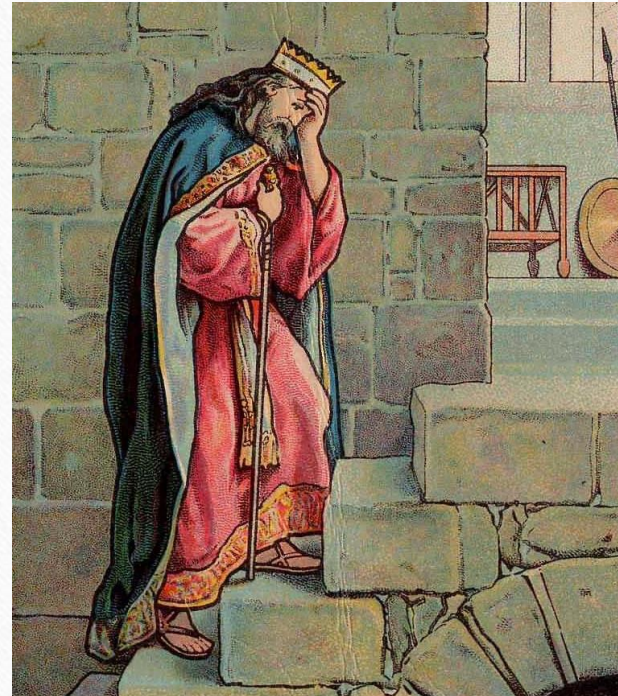
## Chapter 11

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David and Bathsheba

# David's Decline

- Going forward, David's reign is marked by troubles, especially from within his own family.
- If only he had followed the directions of Deuteronomy 17:17!
- The bottom line is that his pride got the best of him.



## The Setting

- David does not join his troops in the ongoing Ammonite War.
- While lounging in the afternoon, he looks over his capital from his palace rooftop.
- He spies Bathsheba washing herself (Leviticus 15:19?)
  - David finds out who she is.
  - The two commit adultery.





# Bathsheba

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- Husband – Uriah the Hittite, one of David’s mighty men.
- Father – Eliam, another of David’s mighty men.
- Grandfather – Ahithophel, David’s chief advisor.

# Who is to Blame?



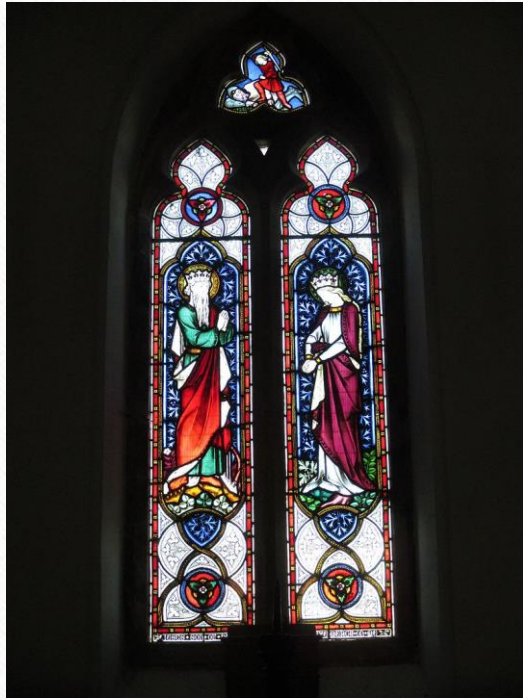
- “Me Too” movement has changed many people’s interpretation of this story.
- According to Jewish law, they are both guilty.
- The Bible puts the blame on David and David alone.
- David sinned against God – Psalm 51:4

# Covering the Sin

- Bathsheba is now expecting a child and her husband is away at war.
- David tries to cover their sin by bringing Uriah home.
- The faithful Uriah refuses to go home.
- David has him executed in battle.



# David and Bathsheba



- After the proper time of mourning for Uriah, David takes Bathsheba as wife.
- “But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD....”
- I think this affair was known in the court and palace.



# II Samuel

## Chapter 12

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David Rebuked

# Nathan's Confrontation of David

- Appeals to David's history as shepherd.
- David pronounces his own judgment – FOURFOLD
  - Death of Bathsheba's child.
  - Rape of Tamar
  - Murder of Amnon
  - Absalom's rebellion





## Death of David's Child

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- David mourns and prays, but the child passes.
- After hearing this, David gets up, worships, and gets back to business.
- “I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

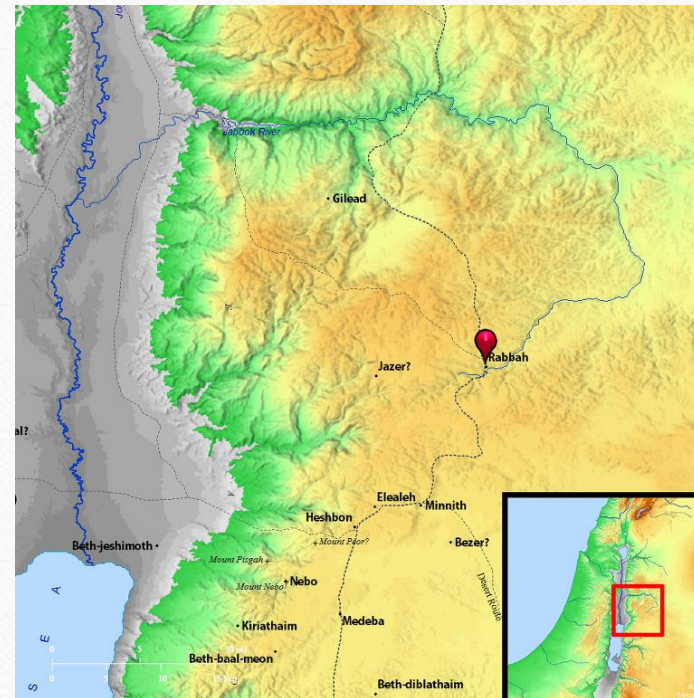
# Birth of Solomon

- Solomon is born about two years after David and Bathsheba's affair.
- David named him *Solomon* – “peaceful”
- Nathan named him *Jedidiah* – “beloved of Jehovah”
  - Note Nathan's involvement. He is just as involved as before confronting David. Also, one of Bathsheba's sons will be named Nathan, maybe after him.



# Capture of Rabbah

- Joab captures the city then sends for David to claim the final victory.
- David takes the king's valuable crown and puts it on his own head.



# David and the Ammonites

- Some balk at the treatment of the Ammonites in vs. 31, reinterpreting the verse to mean they were made slaves.
- However, these actions are consistent with the times and culture.



# II Samuel

## Chapter 13

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David's Fractured Family

# Amnon and Tamar

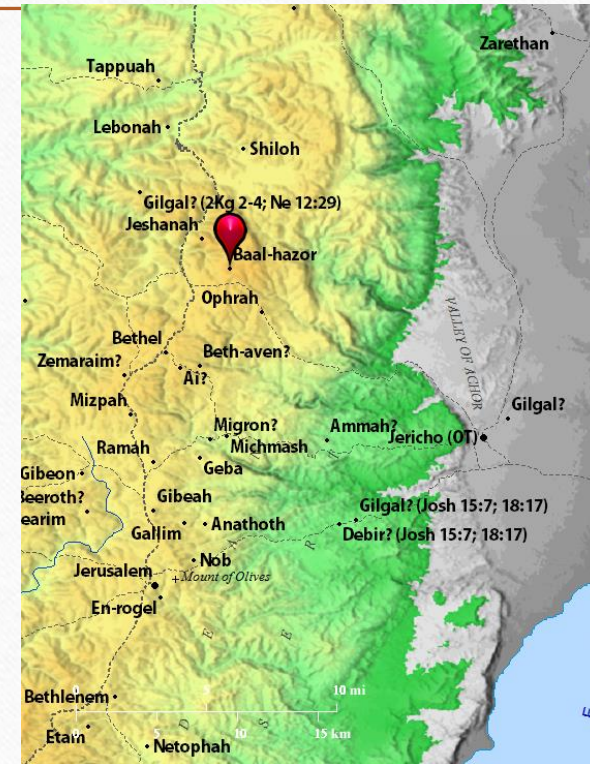
- Amnon (David's eldest son and presumptive heir) lusts after his half-sister Tamar.
- Jonadab hatches a scheme that ends in Amnon raping Tamar.
- Tamar seeks refuge with her full-brother Absalom.





# Absalom's Revenge

- David refuses to punish Amnon.
- Two years later, Absalom murders Amnon.
- The first news to David indicates Absalom killed ALL his brothers.
- Jonadab recognizes the craftiness and knows only Amnon is dead.



# Absalom's Flight

- Absalom flees Israel and hides in Geshur.
- Absalom's mother, Maacah, is the daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur.
- He will stay here in exile for three years.



# II Samuel

## Chapter 14

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Absalom Returns

# Joab's Plot

- Joab plots to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem.
- Why?
  - Because he thought Absalom would be king?
  - Because he and Absalom are a lot alike?
- Joab uses Nathan's playbook and presents David with a story to move him to action.



# The Wise Woman's Tale

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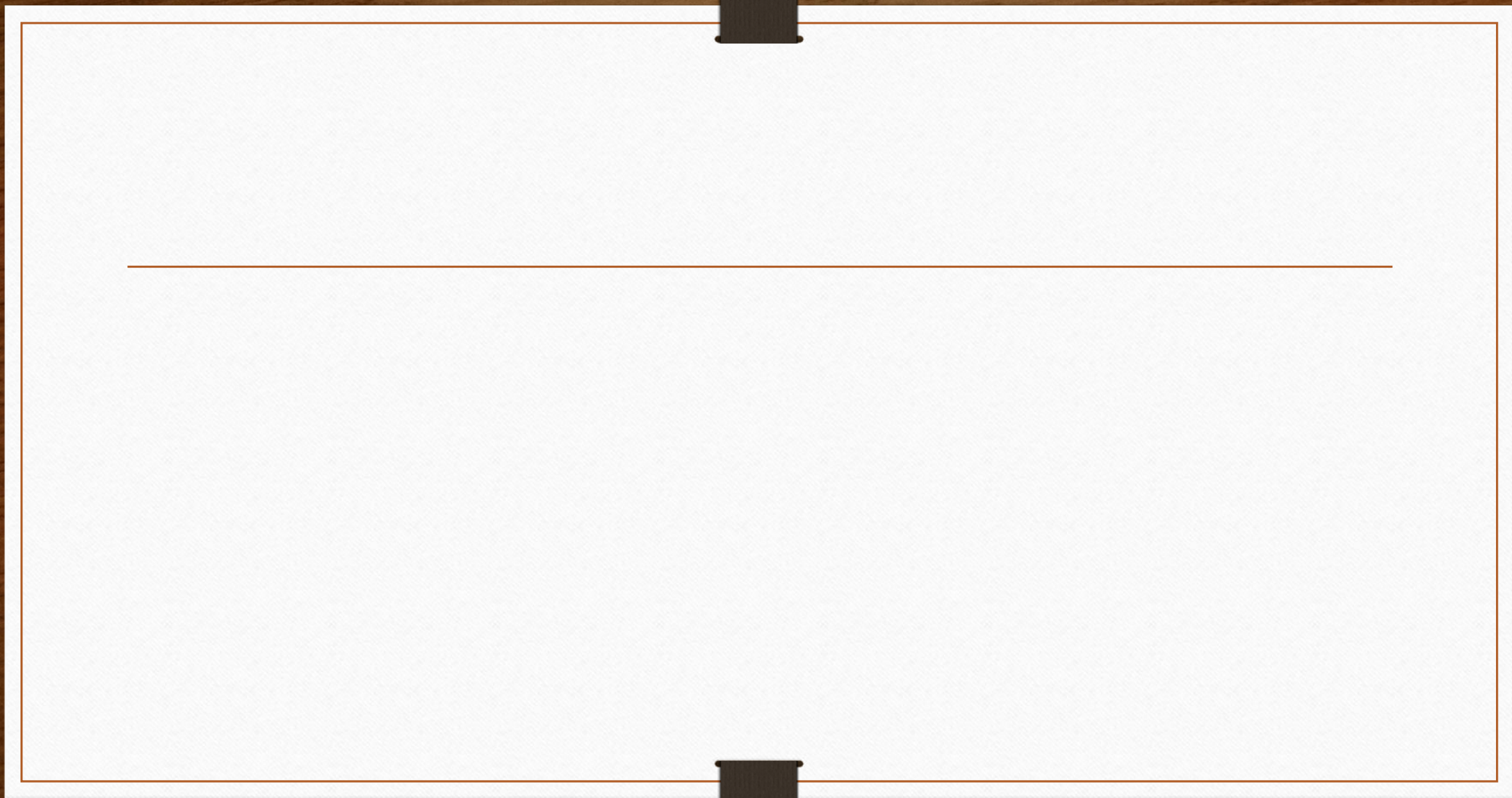


- A Widows has two sons
- Son A killed Son B.
- Son B fled because he should be executed for murder.
- If Son B died, the widow would have no family.

# Absalom's Return

- Absalom is allowed to return but is not brought back into the royal court.
- He had great hair – “weighed” five pounds – and a growing family.
- After two years of not seeing his father, he sets Joab's fields on fire to set up a reunion.





# II Samuel

## Chapter 15

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Absalom Rebels



# Absalom, the Politician



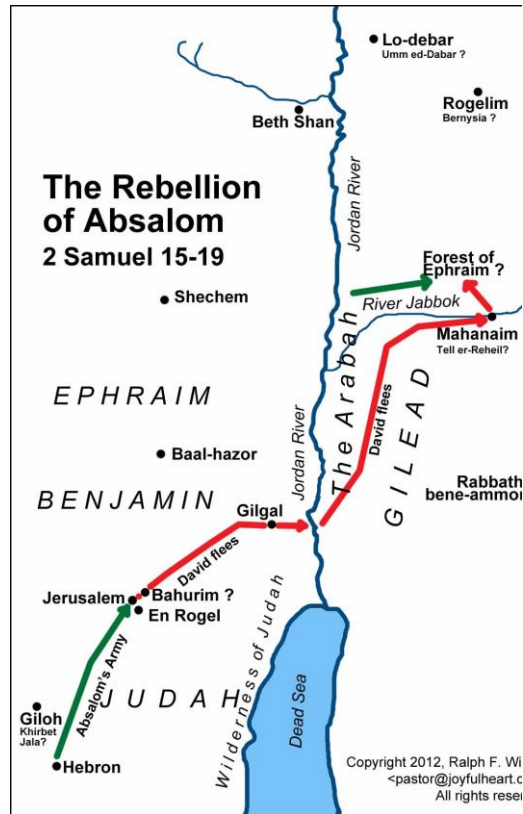
- David is getting older and less active, so Absalom plays himself as the one to step up and deal with things.
- He acts like a king and looks like a king...

# Absalom, the Usurper

- Vs. 7 – “And it came to pass after forty years”
  - 40 years before, David had the heart of the nation, but now it is stolen away by Absalom.
- Absalom launches the revolt at Hebron.
- Ahithophel is among the conspirators.



# David's Flight



- David leaves Jerusalem with his family, bodyguard, and mighty men.
- The Philistine mercenary Ittai and his men join him.
- Zadok follows with the Ark but is sent back to Jerusalem.
- Hushai is sent back as a spy.

# II Samuel

## Chapter 16

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David's Flight

# David's Flight, cont.

- Ziba arrives and reports that Mephibosheth is expecting to be king (ridiculous)
- Shimei curses David.
- Abishai offers to kill Shimei, but David will not allow it.



# Absalom Takes Jerusalem

- Hushai is accepted into Absalom's trust.
- Ahithophel counsels Absalom to take David's concubines as his own.
  - This is a point of no return for Absalom.



Next Week...

David's final years and  
Solomon's ascension to the throne.