

Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11

2 Samuel 12:26-31

1 Chronicles 20:1-3

by Don Falkos

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In the spring, Joab led the Israelite army against the Ammonites, subjugated town after town, and finally laid siege to one last Ammonite city.

Late one afternoon, back in Jerusalem, David was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a strikingly beautiful woman taking a bath. He sent for her. When she came to the palace, he slept with her. She was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of David's warriors. Later Bathsheba sent David a message, "I'm pregnant."

David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." When Uriah arrived, David asked him how the war was going. Then he told Uriah, "Go home and relax." But Uriah didn't go home. He slept that night at the entrance to the palace.

When David questioned him he said, "How could I go home and sleep with my wife when the army of Israel is at war?"

The next day, David got Uriah drunk and tried again to send him home, but he wouldn't go. So David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. The letter instructed Joab, "Put Uriah on the front lines where the fighting is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." Joab followed the king's instructions.

When the time was right, Joab summoned David to the battlefield. David came and captured the Ammonite city. He took the crown from the Ammonite king and placed it on his own head. He looted the city then went back to Jerusalem along with his army.

Bathsheba mourned Uriah's death. Then David brought her to the palace and she became his wife. She gave birth to a son. But the Lord was displeased with what David had done.