

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- The series of campaigns against the Ammonites was provoked by the shameful treatment of David's ambassadors by the Ammonite king Hanun. The Ammonites hired mercenaries, and with them tried to stave off Israel's assault on Rabbah, the Ammonite capital.
- David's generals forced the Aramaeans and Ammonites to retreat. This only inspired the Aramaeans to regroup and augment their forces for a return engagement. Eventually the Aramaeans surrendered and became vassals to Israel.
- Israel went out again to battle the Ammonites, but David stayed home. There he spied Bathsheba, with whom he committed adultery. After finding out she was pregnant and trying unsuccessfully to cover his tracks, he arranged an elaborate plot that saw him killed on the battle field.

Consequences

- Naturally the whole sordid affair **displeased the Lord**, and he sent Nathan to David with a parable about a rich man who had stolen the lamb of his poor neighbor, though he had many to spare. David was so incensed that he ordered the greedy man to **be put to death (2 Sam. 12:1-6)**.
 - ▶ That same opposition of pity/no pity characterized David: While he pitied the fictional poor man in the story, he had shown no pity for the real-life **Uriah and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:7-15)**.
 - ▶ The strict legal decision was in verse 6, a demand for **fourfold restitution**. According to Old Testament law, certain crimes required fourfold restitution rather than the normal "double restitution." This sentence fits neatly into David's own situation, for he paid fourfold for the death of Uriah, **losing four sons (Exodus 22:1)**.
 - ▶ This seems to have been the **turning point** in David's life and, consequently, in the life of the nation. Up until then everything seemed to go well, but after this his personal and family life became a sequence of tragedies.
 - ▶ The account of David's relationship with Bathsheba not only prepares for the eventual **accession of Solomon**, but it also sets in motion a curse that will dog the remainder of David's life: **death** and **sexual outrage** will follow, and "the sword will never depart from [his] house" (**2 Sam. 12:10**).

- David was delivered, but **punishment** must be carried out, and it was carried out on **David's son**. For David, Yahweh's forgiveness was both marvelous and costly—the Lord afflicted the child (**2 Sam. 12:15**).
 - ▶ David, thinking that perhaps death was not the Lord's **last word** on the matter, pleaded with the Lord during the child's sickness that the Lord might restore him.
 - ▶ Yahweh blessed David with **another son** by Bathsheba, and the Lord gave Solomon a second name, Jedidiah, which means "favored of Yah" or "beloved of Yah," designating Solomon as heir.
 - ▶ It was common for ancient kings to receive a throne name. In Solomon's case, the second name came **from Yahweh** and designated him as the "**favored**" one. If Solomon was in fact marked out as David's heir from birth, this helps to explain Bathsheba's and Nathan's efforts to place Solomon on the throne (**1 Kgs. 1:11–31**).
- The sin of David represents another sinful **fall** of the one appointed to spearhead the **Kingdom of God**. Much like Adam's fall in Genesis 3 and Cain's sin in Genesis 4, David's fall will result in the death of a son (four, in fact). Further, David and his sons will also be given wise or crafty **counsel** that will actually lead to more death and further destruction (**2 Sam. 13:3; 14:2, 13-17; 16:20-23**).

Repentance

- There are two aspects to David's repentance that need to be considered. First is David's **confession**, then his **assurance** (**2 Sam. 12:13-14**).
 - ▶ Though the words of his confession are very few, that is a good sign of a **broken spirit**. There is no excuse, no cloaking, no glossing over the sin. There is no searching for a loophole, no pretext put forward, no human weakness pleaded. He acknowledges his guilt openly, candidly, and without speaking about it **evasively** (**Luke 18:3; in contrast 1 Sam. 15:19-20**).
 - ▶ The assurance that Yahweh offers to David at the end of verse 13 was **wholly gratuitous**. What was called for in the law was the **death penalty**, and Yahweh had every right to do it (**Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22**).
- Repentance, is an **intellectual understanding** (that sin is wrong), an emotional **approval** of the teachings of Scripture regarding sin (a sorrow for sin and a hatred of it), and a personal **decision** to turn from it – renouncing sin and deciding to forsake it and lead a life of obedience to Christ instead.

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>2 Samuel 12:1-6</p>	<p>1 And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. 4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."</p>
<p>2 Samuel 12:7-15</p>	<p>7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' " 13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die." 15 Then Nathan went to his house. And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick.</p>
<p>Exodus 22:1</p>	<p>"If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 12:10</p>	<p>Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'</p>
<p>2 Samuel 12:15</p>	<p>Then Nathan went to his house. And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick.</p>
<p>1 Kings 1:11-31</p>	<p>11 Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it? 12 Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. 13 Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then is Adonijah king?' 14 Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words." 15 So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king). 16 Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, "What do you desire?" 17 She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the Lord your God, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' 18 And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it. 19 He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited. 20 And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. 21 Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders." 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. 23 And they told the king, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground. 24 And Nathan said, "My lord the king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? 25 For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!' 26 But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited. 27 Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?" 28 Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. 29 And the king swore, saying, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, 30 as I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day." 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, "May my lord King David live forever!"</p>

2 Samuel 13:3	But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man.
2 Samuel 14:2	And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman and said to her, "Pretend to be a mourner and put on mourning garments. Do not anoint yourself with oil, but behave like a woman who has been mourning many days for the dead.
2 Samuel 14:13-17	13 And the woman said, "Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in giving this decision the king convicts himself, inasmuch as the king does not bring his banished one home again. 14 We must all die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God will not take away life, and he devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast. 15 Now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid, and your servant thought, 'I will speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant. 16 For the king will hear and deliver his servant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the heritage of God.' 17 And your servant thought, 'The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,' for my lord the king is like the angel of God to discern good and evil. The Lord your God be with you!"
2 Samuel 16:20-23	20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?" 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened." 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. 23 Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.
2 Samuel 12:13-14	13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die."
Luke 18:3	And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'
1 Samuel 15:19-20	19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" 20 And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.
Leviticus 20:10	"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.
Deuteronomy 22:22	"If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.