

# **WOMEN OF THE BIBLE - 4**

## **BATHSHEBA**

*King David's Most Legendary Wife*

### **2 Samuel 11**

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged

Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?



## **BATHSHEBA'S STORY**

*THE BEAUTY THAT BROUGHT ABOUT ADULTRY AND MURDER*

### **David Schemes Uriah's Death**

Not long after Bathsheba and David committed adultery, Bathsheba sent a message to David telling him she was pregnant. Now the pressure was really on the king, who might have concealed his affair with Bathsheba, but couldn't hide her pregnancy for long. Instead of owning up to the liaison

and making restitution, David took an even more sinful approach to the crisis.

### ***David and Bathsheba's Sin Results in Death***

Indeed, Joab put Uriah in the front lines when David's army attacks Rabbath after a long siege, although Joab didn't withdraw the army as David instructed.

Despite Joab's action, Uriah and other officers were killed. After a mourning period, Bathsheba was brought to the palace to become the latest of King David's wives, thus assuring the legitimacy of their child. It appears Bathsheba know nothing of David's plan, and, indeed, it unfolds outside her purview. Bathsheba is "*on stage*" in this story very seldom and is silent except for the announcement of her pregnancy, which she does not deliver in person. No suggestion is given of her inner life or of her involvement with or resistance to David's actions. We see her next after her husband, Uriah, has been killed, and she reacts as a proper wife would. *2 Sam 11:26* emphasizes her status as Uriah's wife: "*When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him.*" Immediately after the mourning period, David marries her and she bears him a son.

The child born to David and Bathsheba becomes ill and soon dies. David is portrayed as a distraught father, praying and fasting that the child might live. Of the mother **we hear nothing**, except that after the child has died, "Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba, and went to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he [*or she*] named him Solomon" (12:24).

### ***Bathsheba Became Solomon's Closest Adviser***

Although she seems passive at the beginning of her relationship with David, Bathsheba became King David's most famous wife because of the way she secured David's throne for their son, Solomon.

By now David was old and feeble, and his oldest surviving son, Adonijah, attempted to usurp the throne before his father died. According to 1 Kings 1:11, the prophet Nathan urged Bathsheba to tell David that Adonijah was preparing to take the throne by force. Bathsheba told her aged husband that only their son Solomon remained loyal, so the king named Solomon his co-regent. When David died, Solomon became king after executing his rival Adonijah. The new King Solomon valued his mother's help so much that he had a second throne installed for her so that she became his closest adviser until her death.

## ***Personal Application***

***One act of adultery brought about a lifetime of pain; learn from King David; choose to resist temptation.***

The Bible teaches that David's relationship with Bathsheba was the only stain upon the escutcheon of David. "*David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life,*" (1 Kings 15:5). ..... except only in the matter of Uriah.

If this was the only blot on his page, it was a heavily engrained one, and one that could not be erased, as far as the effects of his treatment of Uriah was concerned. While God freely pardons a sinner, often the effects of committed sin remain. The tragic lapse in the life of the man after God's own heart is built up with supreme art, from David's first sight of Bathsheba to the highlight of his unspeakable remorse when realizing the monstrosity of his most grievous sin, he flung himself upon the mercy of God.

The natural consequences of David's transgression came to prove its inevitable subsequent sorrow. Evil rose up against him in his own house (2 Samuel 12:11). David found himself disgraced by one son (13:4), banished by another (15:19), revolted against by a third (1 Kings 2), bearded by his servant, betrayed by his friends, deserted by his people, bereaved of his children.

**A** lesson we can learn from Bathsheba is that being assured of God's forgiveness she did not let her one sin ruin her entire life. **Repentant**, she used her mistake as a guide to future, better conduct. When we brood over sins, God has said **HE will remember no more** against us, we actually doubt His mercy, and rob ourselves of spiritual power and progress. Read again Psalm 51, and then, Psalm 32.

## ***Kingdom Dynamics***

**B**athsheba —The name means Seventh Daughter, or The Daughter of an Oath. "Bath" means "daughter." An associated name is *Bath Shua*,

a Canaanite name which implies, "the daughter of opulence."

As the wife of David (*reigned c. 1005-965 B.C.E.*) and the mother of Solomon (*reigned c. 968-928 B.C.E.*), coming to be David's wife makes clear that the circumstances are morally problematic. Yet because her character is suppressed, she emerges untainted by the adultery and murder for which David receives full blame.

### **2 Samuel 11:3**

And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this **Bathsheba**, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

### **2 Samuel 12:24**

And David comforted **Bathsheba** his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

### **1 Kings 1:11**

Wherefore Nathan spake unto **Bathsheba** the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not?

### **1 Kings 1:15**

And **Bathsheba** went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.

### **1 Kings 1:16**

And **Bathsheba** bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?

### **1 Kings 1:28**

Then king David answered and said, Call me **Bathsheba**. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.

### **1 Kings 1:31**

Then **Bathsheba** bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

### **1 Kings 2:13**

And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to **Bathsheba** the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.

**1 Kings 2:18**

And **Bathsheba** said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

**1 Kings 2:19**

Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.



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