

2 Samuel Chapter 11 Commentary

2Sa 11:1 ¶ "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."

Notice that the text says: "**at the time when kings go forth to battle.**" King David does not go to battle as he should have done, which is his first mistake in this chapter. King David sent the people, but he stayed behind. It was not a time for Joab, the army general, to go to war, but a time for David, the king, to go to war.

2 "And it came to pass in an evening tide, 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. **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? **4** And David sent messengers and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house."

We point out that King David and Israel are at the zenith of their blessings of God. God has overcome all their enemies and given them rest in the land of promise. As we have pointed out before, it is when Israel is most blessed by God that they forget why and how they are where they are living in ease. Then they forget God and turn to idolatry. This is what we see happening in King David's life in this chapter. The events of this chapter are going to demonstrate that King David has for a moment of time forgotten God. King David has forgotten that God has blessed him to rule and reign over Israel, teaching them the statutes of God through true and just judgments.

We see an example here of what we are told in: **Pr 19:15 ¶** "**Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.**" We can surely see that King David is being slothful and is not about his kingly duties as he should be. We are reminded of a saying: "Idle minds are the devil's workshop." It certainly proved to be true in this instance, as we see King David idling around the house, and seeing things he would not have seen had he been about the king's business, which was to be going to battle.

We pause here to point out that God is not in the business of hiding men's sins. This chapter and those following are going to give us a clear view of the consequence of sin in our lives, through King David.

Remember, King David is a man after God's own heart, according to God's own proclamation in: **1Sa 13:14** "**But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.**" This verse demonstrates that King David has forgotten why he is where he is in life. Yet, he is just a man, and it is made plain that he is a sinner. It reminds us that we are also sinners, and except for God's mercy and grace being extended and protecting us, we too will fall in sin and disfavor with God. It reminds us of the need to be constant in prayer and faithfulness to God. It reminds us that we are to be about God's business, not satisfying our own lust, nor following our own will.

It is also a reminder that God only has sinners to work through here on earth. Scripture tells us plainly in:

- **Ro 3:10-18; 10** "**As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.**"
- **Ro 3:20-26; 20** "**Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To**

declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

It is also a reminder that though we are all sinners: every child of God has been eternally forgiven of their sins, just as we shall see that God forgives David of his sins. Just remember, there is always a consequence for sins against God.

5 "And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. 6 ¶ And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house."

Certainly, we see the devil busy at work in David's idle mind, as he begins to scheme to try and hide his actions of adultery. Why would King David be so busy trying to hide his sin? First, when the mind is consumed with fulfilling its own lust, there is no repentance to be found. Secondly, according to the law of God, which he was upholding and exercising in right judgment upon Israel, King David and Bathsheba should both be put to death. The law did not say if a king commits adultery; he is excluded from the penalty of the law. Wherefore, any confession would put him on death row.

Have you ever noticed, in your own life, when you are guilty of something, you immediately begin to scheme to find someone else to blame, or some way to cover up your sin? Sometimes, we try to justify our sins by finding someone, of whom we can say: they have done much worse than I have, to assuage our conscience.

King David forgets two things as he begins to scheme: One: God certainly knows what he has done. Two: Many people are aware of what he has done. The same is true in our own lives. Almost always there is someone who knows of our sin, and we are certain that God knows what is done.

Notice, Uriah does not do what the king planned for him to do. God is at work, providentially, to bring about judicial judgment against King David. David will not escape the consequence of his sin.

10 "And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? 11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing."

It seems to me; enough people know what is going on that they tell the king; Uriah did not go to his house as you had planned for him to do. King David inquires why Uriah did not go down to his house, but abode by the door of the king's house. Uriah gives David the explanation of a man of integrity and honor, of a man dedicated to the service of the king and his nation.

As we hear the testimony of Uriah, we are reminded that if King David had been about his business, he would have been occupying one of those tents, and would have had no occasion to commit this adultery.

12 "And David said to Uriah, Tarry here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee depart. So, Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. 13 And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house."

King David commands Uriah to tarry for another night. David calls him in and makes him drunk in hopes he will go to his house and lie with his wife.

Uriah, being a man of honor and integrity, does not do as the king wishes. Again, we see God providentially working out the failure of David's scheming.

14 ¶ "And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. 16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned

Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. 17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also."

Now, we see the depraved nature of man, under the influence of sin and the devil, hard at work. King David sends a letter, by the hand of Uriah, to Joab; telling him to put Uriah in a position to be killed in action. David thinks this will clear his name, but it is only multiplying his sin. Again, David has forgotten: God knows what is going on, as well as several people. Joab does as he is commanded, and Uriah is killed. Thus, we see that Uriah is a truly faithful, just, and valiant, man, who was willing to give his life for king and country.

That Joab obeys the order of King David and carries out the murder of Uriah, is a testimony of the hardness of Joab's heart, as we have already heard King David confess when Joab killed Abner, seen in: **2Sa 3:39 "And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness."** It is ironic that King David is currently as hard as Joab and Abishai; demonstrated by having no regard for human life in murdering Uriah.

A lesson here: sin leads to more sin, and will continue to lead to more sin, until there is repentance and confession before God. Think about the scripture in: **Jas 1:13-15; 13 ¶ "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."** We see that this is exactly what has happened in King David's life. He saw a beautiful woman and lusted after her. Then he followed through with the fulfillment of his lust and sin was born. This sin is going to bring forth a lot of death. We have already seen it brought death to Uriah, and It shall bring forth at least four more deaths.

Praise God, we are not under the law service, but living in the age of salvation by the grace of God. Trusting fully in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We certainly can do no better than King David, if we are not under the influence of the Holy Spirit power.

Consider, the scripture in: **Heb 10:26-27; 26 "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."** This is the exact place that King David is in. If he is exposed it will lead to judgment and to his death, except for the grace and mercy of God.

18 "Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; 19 And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king, 20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. 22 So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for. 23 And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate. 24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

After Uriah is killed, Joab sends a message to the king. Notice the elaborate scheme of cover up that is in the message, and that the death of Uriah is pointed out. Certainly, as a man under the weight of condemnation, this is good news to David. However, it will not be good news for long, as God moves to bring his judicial wrath and judgment upon David.

25 "Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him."

David sends back a message and tells the messenger to encourage Joab to move forward and take the city.

26 "And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD."

When Bathsheba hears her husband is dead, she mourns, as is proper, for the specified time, after which David brings her to himself and marries her.

"But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD." This is of the utmost importance that we forget not. King David has schemed and planned to keep his name clean, yet God who sees all things is now angry with King David. This is a warning to us that we should confess our sins when we commit them. Why? Because we are inherently prone to do as King David and try to hide our sins. We also forget that sin breeds more sin, as we have seen demonstrated in this chapter. What do you mean? First, King David failed to attend to his duty as king and did not go to battle at the prescribed time. Second, King David yielded to the lust of the flesh and committed adultery. Third, King David committed murder in an attempt to cover up his sin of adultery.

The lesson for us to remember is what we are told in scripture in: **1Jo 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** The sooner we confess our sins, the less likely we are to multiply our sins, and the less severe will be the consequence of sin that we must bear.

Another lesson, which we shall see carried out in the following chapters, is that when God is not pleased with our actions, we can expect his judicial wrath to be poured out upon us here in time.

We shall see that David remains a man after God's own heart in the end. God does not forsake him completely. When God puts him to the test, King David will confess that he has sinned against God, and God will tell him that he has forgiven him, but he must bear punishment, because he has slandered the name of God by his sins. These truths make us really appreciate the finished work of Christ, in the eternal redemption of our sins, and the gift of eternal life in Christ. Hallelujah!