



# *Bathsheba*

*Wrong Decisions lead to*

*Big Mistakes*

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## Overview

### **Bathsheba found that wrong decisions lead to big mistakes.**

Her story is told in 2 Samuel, chapters 2:11-12 and 1 Kings 1-2. A related passage is Psalm 51.

Bathsheba was the unlikely link between Israel's two most famous kings—David and Solomon.

She was lover and wife to one, mother to the other. Her adultery with David almost brought an end to the family through which God planned to physically enter his world.

Out of the ashes of that sin, however, God brought good. Eventually Jesus Christ, the salvation of mankind, was born to a descendant of David and Bathsheba.

David and Bathsheba's story shows that little wrong decisions often lead to big mistakes.

It is likely that neither was where he or she should have been. Bathsheba may have been rash in bathing where she might be seen; David should have been at war with his army.

Each decision contributed to the beginning of a very sad series of events.

Bathsheba must have been devastated by the chain of events—unfaithfulness to her husband, discovery of pregnancy, death of her husband, death of her child.

We are told that David comforted her (2 Samuel 12:24), and she lived to see another son, Solomon, sit on the throne.

## **David comforts Bathsheba.**

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

And David comforted Bath-sheba 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.

### **Bathsheba was wife of Uriah and later one of the wives of David**

### **1 Chronicles 3:5**

The sons born to David in Jerusalem included Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. Bathsheba, the daughter of Ammiel, was the mother of these sons.

Of all the families of Israel, none were so illustrious as the family of David: here we have a full account of it. From this family, as concerning the flesh, Christ came. The attentive observer will perceive that the children of the righteous enjoy many advantages.

## **Adultery of David and Bathsheba**

### **2 Samuel 11:2-5**

Late one afternoon David got out of bed after taking a nap and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace.

As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

Then David sent for her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. (She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period.)

Then she returned home. Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent a message to inform David.

### **Observe the occasions of David's sin; what led to it:**

1. Neglect of his business. He tarried at Jerusalem. When we are out of the way of our duty, we are in temptation.
2. Love of ease: idleness gives great advantage to the tempter.
3. A wandering eye.

He had not, like Job, made a covenant with his eyes, or, at this time, he had forgotten it.

And observe the steps of the sin. See how the way of sin is down-hill; when men begin to do evil, they cannot soon stop.

Observe the aggravations of the sin. How could David rebuke or punish that in others, of which he was conscious that he himself was guilty?

### **Bathsheba as Solomon's mother**

#### **1 Kings 1:11-31**

Then Nathan the prophet went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, and asked her, "Did you realize that Haggith's son, Adonijah, has made himself king and that our lord David doesn't even know about it?"

If you want to save your own life and the life of your son Solomon, follow my counsel.

Go at once to King David and say to him, 'My lord, didn't you promise me that my son Solomon would be the next king and would sit upon your throne? Then why has Adonijah become king?'

And while you are still talking with him, I will come and confirm everything you have said."

So Bathsheba went into the king's bedroom. He was very old now, and Abishag was taking care of him. Bathsheba bowed low before him.

"What can I do for you?" he asked her.

She replied, "My lord, you vowed to me by the Lord your God that my son Solomon would be the next king and would sit on your throne. But instead, Adonijah has become the new king, and you do not even know about it.

He has sacrificed many oxen, fattened calves, and sheep, and he has invited all your sons and Abiathar the priest and Joab, the commander of the army. But he did not invite your servant Solomon.

And now, my lord the king, all Israel is waiting for your decision as to who will become king after you. If you do not act, my son Solomon and I will be treated as criminals as soon as you are dead."

While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived. The king's advisers told him, "Nathan the prophet is here to see you."

Nathan went in and bowed low before the king. He asked, "My lord, have you decided that Adonijah will be the next king and that he will sit on your throne?"

Today he has sacrificed many oxen, fattened calves, and sheep, and he has invited your sons to attend the celebration.

He also invited Joab, the commander of the army, and Abiathar the priest. They are feasting and drinking with him and shouting, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

But I myself, your servant, was not invited; neither were Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, nor Solomon.

Has my lord really done this without letting any of his servants know who should be the next king?"

"Call Bathsheba," David said. So she came back in and stood before the king. And the king vowed,

"As surely as the Lord lives, who has rescued me from every danger, today I decree that your son Solomon will be the next king and will sit on my throne, just as I swore to you before the Lord, the God of Israel."

Then Bathsheba bowed low before him again and exclaimed, "May my lord King David live forever!"

### **Observe Nathan's address to Bathsheba.**

Let me give thee counsel how to save thy own life, and the life of thy son.

Such as this is the counsel Christ's ministers give us in his name, to give all diligence, not only that no man take our crown, [Rev 3:11](#), but that we save our lives, even the lives of our souls.

David made a solemn declaration of his firm cleaving to his former resolution, that Solomon should be his successor.

Even the recollection of the distresses from which the Lord redeemed him, increased his comfort, inspired his hopes, and animated him to his duty, under the decays of nature and the approach of death.

### **Adonijah makes a request of Bathsheba.**

#### **1 Kings 2:13-21**

One day Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, came to see Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. "Have you come to make trouble?" she asked him.

"No," he said, "I come in peace. In fact, I have a favor to ask of you."

"What is it?" she asked.

He replied, "As you know, the kingdom was mine; everyone expected me to be the next king.

But the tables were turned, and everything went to my brother instead; for that is the way the Lord wanted it.

So now I have just one favor to ask of you. Please don't turn me down."

"What is it?" she asked.

He replied, "Speak to King Solomon on my behalf, for I know he will do anything you request. Ask him to give me Abishag, the girl from Shunem, as my wife."

"All right," Bathsheba replied. "I will speak to the king for you."

So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak on Adonijah's behalf. The king rose from his throne to meet her, and he bowed down before her. When he sat down on his throne again, he ordered that a throne be brought for his mother, and she sat at his right hand.

"I have one small request to make of you," she said. "I hope you won't turn me down."

"What is it, my mother?" he asked. "You know I won't refuse you."

"Then let your brother Adonijah marry Abishag, the girl from Shunem," she replied.

### **Bathsheba's request is denied.**

Solomon received Bathsheba with all the respect that was owing to a mother; but let none be asked for that which they ought not to grant.

According to eastern customs it was plain that Adonijah sought to be king, by his asking for Abishag as his wife, and Solomon could not be safe while he lived.

Ambitious, turbulent spirits commonly prepare death for themselves. Many a head has been lost by catching at a crown. Adonijah Aspiring to the Throne Is Put to Death

## The children of Bathsheba by David

### 1 Chronicles 3:5

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### Life Application

From the life of Bathsheba, we see that the little, day-to-day choices we make are very important.

They prepare us to make the right choices when the big decisions come. The wisdom to make right choices in small and large matters is a gift from God.

Understanding this should make us more conscious of the decisions we make and more willing to include God in our decision making.

Always ask God for his help with today's decisions?

**Key verses:** "When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:26-27).

**To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.