

In our last lesson, we talked about how David was king only over Judah. Ishbosheth was king over the rest of Israel even though it was without God's authority. Then, Abner went with David and helped convince the people to make David their king.

David was a very good king. He was very good to his people. David sent Joab, the captain of his army, into battle with the Ammonites. But David stayed in Jerusalem.

One day David was walking on the roof of his house. David looked down and saw a woman below. (2 Sam. 11:2) She was beautiful. David sent someone to find out about her. Her name was Bathsheba. She was married to a man in David's army named Uriah.

David wanted Bathsheba to be his wife. David had a plan. David gave Uriah a letter to take to Joab. The letter instructed Joab to put Uriah in the battle so he would be killed. (2 Sam. 11:27) Joab did what David told him to do. Uriah was killed in the battle. Joab sent a message to David telling him that Uriah was dead.

Bathsheba mourned the death of her husband. After the time of mourning was over, David married Bathsheba. She went to live in his house with him. David thought he had hidden his sin. God was not pleased about this terrible thing that David had done. (2 Sam. 11:27)

There was a man named Nathan who was a prophet of God. God sent Nathan to David. Nathan told David this story. (2 Sam. 12:1-4)

Once there were two men living in the same city. One man was rich. He had many flocks and herds.

The other man was poor. He had only one little ewe lamb. The little lamb was like part of the family. The lamb grew up with his children and they loved it very much.

One day, a visitor came to see the rich man. The rich man did not want to kill one of his own animals to cook for the visitor. Instead, he took the poor man's only lamb. The rich man killed it and cooked it to serve to the visitor.

David became angry when he heard the story. David told Nathan that the rich man should have given the poor man four sheep for the one that he took. (2 Sam. 12:5-6) Nathan told David that he was the same as the rich man in the story. Nathan told David that the Lord had anointed him king. The Lord had given David all the things that he needed. Uriah was like the poor man in the story. And David had made a plan to kill Uriah so he could take Uriah's wife. (2 Sam. 12:7-9)

David told Nathan that he had sinned against the Lord. David was very sorry. Nathan told David that the Lord would forgive him of his sin. (2 Sam. 12:13-14) But, Nathan also told David that he would have trouble in his life because of the sin.

Because of David's sin, their first child died. But, later they had another son. His name was Solomon. The Lord loved Solomon. (2 Sam. 12:24) King David had other children. He had a son named Absalom, another named Amnon, and a daughter named Tamar. (2 Sam. 13:22) Amnon did a very bad thing to Tamar. Absalom was angry. He had Amnon killed because he had hurt Tamar. Then Absalom ran away from Jerusalem.

David missed Absalom when he was gone. After three years, David sent Joab to get Absalom and bring him back to Jerusalem. (2 Sam. 14:24) David asked that Absalom be sent to his own house and not brought to see David.

Absalom was a handsome man who knew how to talk so that people would want to follow him. Absalom would go to the gates of the city each day. He would talk to the people who were on their way to see the king about a problem. (2 Sam. 15:2) Absalom would say things that would make the people feel good. Many people started to follow Absalom. (2 Sam. 15:13) Absalom was planning to kill David so he could be king. A messenger went to David and told him about Absalom's plan to kill him.

When David heard about Absalom's plan, he decided to leave Jerusalem. When Absalom saw that David was gone, he took over Jerusalem. He pretended to be king.

Absalom called for a friend for advice about David. (2 Sam. 17:1) This man wanted to go after David in the night kill him. But Absalom asked another man named Hushai. He told Absalom that he should take all of Israel and go fight David. Absalom agreed with Hushai and made plans to fight David. Hushai was really a friend to David. He quickly sent messengers to David to tell him about Absalom's plan.

David had time to make plans for the battle. David's men won the battle over Absalom's army. When Absalom saw that he was losing the battle, he ran away. Absalom was riding his mule and went too close to a tree. He hit a limb of the tree and got caught in the tree. (2 Sam. 18:10) Absalom died.

David was very sad when he heard that Absalom was dead. David still loved Absalom even though he had tried to kill him. David returned to Jerusalem to be king. David continued to have many problems. David wrote songs to praise God for saving him against Saul and for helping him against the Philistines.

David told Joab to go out and count all the people. The Lord had not told David to do this. He was angry with David. (2 Sam. 24:1) David knew he had sinned against God. God told David to choose his punishment for the sin. But David said God should decide. The Lord sent a plague to punish David. (2 Sam. 24:15)

The prophet Gad told David to build an altar on the threshing floor that belonged to Araumah. (2Sam. 24:18) David went to Araumah and offered to buy the threshing floor from him. Araumah told David to offer whatever he needed. But, David did not want to offer a sacrifice that he had not paid for himself. (2 Sam. 24:21) So, David paid Araumah 50 shekels of silver for the threshing floor.

Then David built an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. The Lord heard David's prayers and He took away the plague from Israel.

David had many problems in his life. David brought problems on himself because he sinned. David repented of his sins. God forgave him. God continued to be with David as king.