

2 Samuel 12

Verses 1 - 6

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said,

“There were two men in a city, the one wealthy and the other poor.

² The wealthy man had a great many flocks and herds.

³ But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb

Which he bought and nurtured;

And it grew up together with him and his children.

It would eat scraps from him and drink from his cup and lie in his lap,

And was like a daughter to him.

⁴ Now a visitor came to the wealthy man,

And he could not bring himself to take *any animal* from his own flock or his own herd,

To prepare for the traveler who had come to him;

So he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

⁵ Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this certainly deserves to die! ⁶ So he must make restitution for the lamb four times over, since he did this thing and had no compassion.”

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, “There were two men in a city, the one wealthy and the other poor.

Nathan came to David as if he was asking for a judicial decision on a case. It was designed to arouse the sympathy of the hearer for the wronged poor man and to feel contempt for the rich man who robbed him

⁵ Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this certainly deserves to die!

David didn’t mean the man literally deserved to die. It would be unjust to kill a man for taking the lamb of a poor man. But the exaggeration expressed the anger that is rightly felt when someone takes advantage of the poor.

⁶ So he must make restitution for the lamb four times over, since he did this thing and had no compassion.”

David (the king of Israel) had no pity for Uriah, a brave and devoted soldier. He took advantage of Joab who he enlisted as an accomplice and then showed no remorse for the men and their families who died as pawns in David’s scheme to hide his sin.

This judgment by David was in keeping with the Law of God

See Exodus 22:1

“If someone steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.”

Verses 7 - 9

⁷ Nathan then said to David, “You yourself are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘It is I who anointed you as king over Israel, and it is I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I also gave you your master’s house and *put* your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, by doing evil in His sight? You have struck and killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, you have taken his wife as your wife, and you have slaughtered him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

⁷ Nathan then said to David, “You yourself are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘It is I who anointed you as king over Israel, and it is I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I also gave you your master’s house and *put* your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah;

God reminds David where all the blessing that he has received came from.

1. God anointed David king over Israel
2. God rescued David from the hand of Saul
3. God gave David Saul’s house and his wives
4. God gave David the house of Israel and Judah

And if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!

Everything that David had, had come from God. And if that had not been enough in David's eyes God would have given him more.

But instead of coming to God about his desire for another beautiful woman, David (the rich man who had many flocks (wives) took the one little lamb (wife) of the poor man (Uriah).

⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, by doing evil in His sight? You have struck and killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, you have taken his wife as your wife, and you have slaughtered him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

David killed Uriah, took his wife, and let the enemy do his killing for him.

We are not good enough, wise enough, or humble enough to handle the responsibility that comes with power.

Verses 10 - 15

¹⁰ Now then, the sword shall never leave your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹ This is what the Lord says: 'Behold, I am going to raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² Indeed, you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and in open daylight.'"¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has allowed your sin to pass; you shall not die. ¹⁴ However, since by this deed you have shown utter disrespect for the Lord, the child himself who is born to you shall certainly die."¹⁵ Then Nathan went to his house.

The Lord told David through the prophet Nathan how he would be punished for his sin.

1. The sword shall never leave your house.
2. I am going to raise up evil against you from your own household.
3. I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight
4. The child himself who is born to you shall certainly die.

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has allowed your sin to pass; you shall not die.”

One redeeming quality that David possessed was his willingness to admit his wrong without offering any excuses.

The penalty for adultery was death by stoning but God allowed that punishment to pass.

See Leviticus 20:10

10 ‘If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, one who commits adultery with his friend’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

14 However, since by this deed you have shown utter disrespect for the Lord, the child himself who is born to you shall certainly die.”

God is the God of grace but He is also the God of Truth and Justice.

Verse 15 - 23

Later the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. ¹⁶ David therefore pleaded with God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷ The elders of his household stood beside him in order to help him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them. ¹⁸ Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And David’s servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was *still* alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to us. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do *himself* harm?” ¹⁹ But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.” ²⁰ So David got up from the ground, washed, anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and when he asked, they served him food, and he ate. ²¹ Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child *while he was* alive; but when the child died, you got up and ate food.” ²² And he said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, and the child may live.’ ²³ But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I am going to him, but he will not return to me.”

Later the Lord struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. ¹⁶ David therefore pleaded with God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.

The child of David and Bathsheba was conceived while Uriah and Bathsheba were still husband and wife. Thus it says Uriah's widow.

¹⁶ David therefore pleaded with God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.

David was the King of Israel but before God he was a sinner and appealed to God by fasting and lying on the dust of the earth.

¹⁸ Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died.

No parent can suffer any greater loss than the death of a child. This was the hardest of the 4 judgments that David would suffer.

²⁰ So David got up from the ground, washed, anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and when he asked, they served him food, and he ate.

There was no longer anything David could do for his son so he got cleaned up, went to the house of the Lord and worshipped, and then went home and had something to eat.

²¹ Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child *while he was alive*; but when the child died, you got up and ate food."

To the servants it seemed that David had done the opposite of what other people do when faced with a similar situation. That was a good thing considering Jesus often did the opposite of what the religious people of His day thought was the "right thing to do".

1. Jesus healed on the Sabbath.
2. He ate and hung out with social outcasts.
3. He overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple area.

²³ But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I am going to him, but he will not return to me.”

David knew he would die and be in heaven with his son someday.

Verse 24 - 25

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and slept with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, ²⁵ and sent *word* through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the Lord’s sake.

Solomon means peaceable and Jedidiah means beloved of God.

Verse 26 - 31

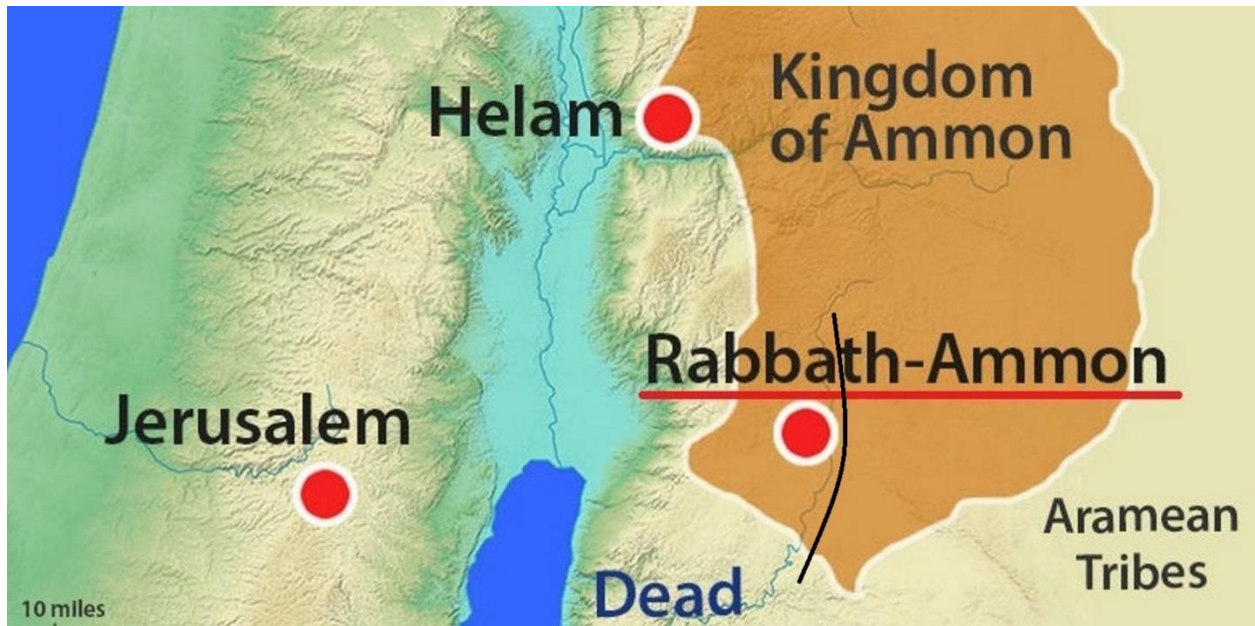
²⁶ Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and captured the royal city. ²⁷ Then Joab sent messengers to David and said, “I have fought against Rabbah, I have even captured the city of waters. ²⁸ Now then, gather the rest of the people and camp opposite the city and capture it, or I will capture the city myself and it will be named after me.” ²⁹ So David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah, and he fought against it and captured it. ³⁰ Then he took the crown of their king from his head; and its weight *was* a talent of gold, and *it had* a precious stone; and it was *placed* on David’s head. And he brought out the plunder of the city in great amounts. ³¹ He also brought out the people who were in it, and put *some to work* at saws, iron picks, and iron axes, and made others serve at the brick works. And he did the same to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

²⁶ Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and captured the royal city. ²⁷ Then Joab sent messengers to David and said, “I have fought against Rabbah, I have even captured the city of waters

The royal city and the city of waters mean the same thing. The city was supplied with water from the stream that still flows through its ruins.

The stream runs from north to south as can be seen on the map below.

See Map 1205



General Eisenhower captured 21 wells that supplied the city of Casa Blanca. This resulted in its capture during the invasion of Africa in World War II.

See Map 1210



²⁹ So David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah, and he fought against it and captured it. ³⁰ Then he took the crown of their king from his head; and its weight was a talent of gold, and *it had* a precious stone; and it was *placed* on David's head. And he brought out the plunder of the city in great amounts.

Joab gave David the glory of taking the city.

The crown weighed a talent of gold. Israel adopted the Babylonian talent which was 67 pounds. However this is 400 years before Babylon ruled over Israel so it is not clear how much a talent weighed at this time. The N.T. talent of Israel was 130 pounds.

Other countries had different talents:

1. A Greek talent, was 57 pounds
2. A Roman talent was 71 pounds
3. An Egyptian talent was 60 pounds

³¹ He also brought out the people who were in it, and put some to work at saws, iron picks, and iron axes, and made others serve at the brick works. And he did the same to all the cities of the sons of Ammon.

It seems that Israel fell into the same trap as the Egyptians did concerning slavery. If God judged the Egyptians for their slavery of the Jews, will he not also judge Israel for doing the same thing to other nations?