



## **LESSON SEVEN**

### **David's Conquest over His Enemies for the Strengthening of His Kingdom**

Scripture Reading:

#### **2 Samuel 9 (Section 1)**

- 9:1 And David said, Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show kindness to him for Jonathan's sake?
- 9:2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul, whose name was Ziba; and they called him to David. And the king said to him, Are you Ziba? And he said, I am your servant.
- 9:3 And the king said, Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him? And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.
- 9:4 Then the king said to him, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, He is just now in the house of Machir the son of Amiel in Lo-debar.
- 9:5 And King David sent men and took him from the house of Machir the son of Amiel, from Lo-debar.
- 9:6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he said, Your servant is here.
- 9:7 And David said to him, Do not be afraid, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of Jonathan your father; and I will restore to you all the land of your father Saul, and you will eat food at my table continually.
- 9:8 And he paid him homage and said, What is your servant that you should look upon a dead dog like me?
- 9:9 And the king called Ziba, Saul's attendant, and said to him, All that belongs to Saul and to all his house I give to your master's son.
- 9:10 And you shall work the land for him, you and your sons and your servants; and you shall bring in the produce that your master's son may have food to eat; and Mephibosheth, your master's son, will eat food continually at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.
- 9:11 Then Ziba said to the king, According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do. And Mephibosheth, said David, shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons.
- 9:12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth.
- 9:13 And Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem because he ate at the king's table continually. And he was crippled in both his feet.

#### **2 Samuel 11 (Section 2)**

- 11:1 And at the turn of the year, at the time when kings go forth to battle, David sent out Joab and his servants with him and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.
- 11:2 And late one afternoon David rose from his bed and went for a walk on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to look at.
- 11:3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, This is none other than Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite.
- 11:4 And David sent messengers and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had just purified herself from her uncleanness.) And she returned to her house.
- 11:5 And the woman conceived; and she sent word and told David and said, I am pregnant.
- 11:6 Then David sent word to Joab: Send me Uriah the Hittite. So Joab sent Uriah to David.
- 11:7 And Uriah came to him, and David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the battle was going.
- 11:8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to your house, and wash your feet. And Uriah went forth from the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

- 11:9 But Uriah lay down at the entrance to the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house.
- 11:10 And they told David, saying, Uriah did not go down to his house. Then David said to Uriah, Have you not just come from a journey? Why have you not gone down to your house?
- 11:11 And Uriah said to David, The Ark and Israel and Judah dwell in huts, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live and your soul lives, I shall by no means do this thing!
- 11:12 And David said to Uriah, Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back. So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the following.
- 11:13 Then David invited him to eat and drink in his presence, and he made him drunk. Then in the evening he went forth to lie down on his bed with the servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his house.
- 11:14 Then in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.
- 11:15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Put Uriah in the forefront of the hardest battle, and withdraw from him that he may be struck down and die.
- 11:16 So when Joab besieged the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew the valiant men were.
- 11:17 And the men of the city went forth and fought with Joab; and some of the people, some of the servants of David, fell. And Uriah the Hittite died also.
- 11:18 And Joab sent a messenger to tell David all the things concerning the battle;
- 11:19 And he commanded the messenger, saying, When you have finished telling the king all the things concerning the battle,
- 11:20 If the king's anger rises up and he says to you, Why did you go so close to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?
- 11:21 Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman throw an upper millstone upon him from the wall so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so close to the wall? Then you shall say, Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.
- 11:22 So the messenger went, and he came and told David all that Joab had sent him for.
- 11:23 And the messenger said to David, The men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.
- 11:24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's servants died. And your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.
- 11:25 Then David said to the messenger, Thus shall you say to Joab, Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your fighting against the city and overthrow it. And encourage him.
- 11:26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband.
- 11:27 And when the mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to his house; and she became his wife and bore a son to him. But the thing that David did displeased Jehovah.

### **2 Samuel 12:1-15a (Section 3)**

- 12:1 Then Jehovah sent Nathan to David. And he went to him and said to him, Two men lived in a city, one rich and the other poor.
- 12:2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds,
- 12:3 But the poor man had nothing but one small ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he nourished it, and it grew up together with him and his children; it ate of the morsels of his food and drank out of his own cup and lay on his bosom; indeed it was like a daughter to him.
- 12:4 And there came a traveler to the rich man. But the rich man refused to take something from his own flock and herd to dress for the wayfarer who had come to him; but he took the poor man's ewe lamb and dressed it for the man who had come to him.22:45 If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?
- 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. And he said to Nathan, As Jehovah lives, the man who has done this is worthy of death;
- 12:6 And he shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this thing and because he had no pity.

12:7 Then Nathan said to David, You are the man. Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul;

12:8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if this were too little, I would have added to you such and such things.

12:9 Why have you despised the word of Jehovah by doing what is evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife as your wife and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

12:10 Now therefore the sword will not depart from your house forever because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

12:11 Thus says Jehovah, I will now raise up trouble against you from within your house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and will give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

12:12 For you did this secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and even before the sun.

12:13 And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah. And Nathan said to David, Jehovah has also put away your sin; you will not die.

12:14 Nevertheless, because you have given the enemies of Jehovah much occasion to blaspheme Him because of this thing, the son who is born to you shall also surely die.

12:15 Then Nathan went to his house.

## **QUESTIONS:**

### **Section 1:**

1. How do we know Jehovah preserved David whenever he went in chapter 8 – 10 of 2 Samuel?
2. How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan?

### **Section 2:**

1. When did David commit the sin? What kind of lesson should we learn?
2. How can we see that Jehovah was displeased to the uttermost with the thing that David did?

### **Section 3:**

1. How did Prophet Nathan led David to condemn himself? What was the result of God's punishing condemnation to David?
2. How can we see that David's sin was very serious in the eyes of God and what kind of lesson should we learn from David today?

We have seen that David was first crowned by the tribe of Judah (2:1—4:12) and later was crowned by all the other tribes (5:1-5). Then he was established by God as king with his kingdom exalted for the sake of God's people Israel (vv. 6-25). David's care for God's habitation on the earth is seen in his taking care of the habitation of the ark of God (ch. 6) and in his wanting to build a house for God (ch. 7). Chapters eight through ten are concerned with David's conquest over his enemies for the strengthening of his kingdom.

### **I. OVER THE PHILISTINES**

David struck the Philistines and subdued them, taking control of the chief city out of the hand of the Philistines (8:1).

### **II. OVER MOAB**

David struck Moab, putting their grown-up ones to death and keeping their younger ones alive. The Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute to him (v. 2).

### **III. OVER ZOBAB AND SYRIA**

In his conquest over Zobah and Syria (vv. 3-8), David struck Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, and took from him 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers. When the Syrians of Damascus came to help the king of Zobah, David struck 22,000 men among the Syrians. The Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. From this we see that "Jehovah preserved David wherever he went" (v. 6b).

### **IV. CONGRATULATED BY TOI KING OF HAMATH**

David was congratulated by Toi king of Hamath for his fighting against the king of Zobah (vv. 9-10).

### **V. CONSECRATING HIS SPOILS FROM ALL THE NATIONS TO JEHOVAH**

David consecrated to Jehovah his spoils from all the nations, articles of gold, silver, and bronze (vv. 11-12).

## **VI. OVER EDMOM**

Verses 13 and 14 speak of David's conquest over Edom. He put garrisons throughout all of Edom, and all the Edomites became servants to him.

### **VII. DAVID'S REIGN IN JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**

In verses 15 through 18 we have a word concerning David's reign in justice and righteousness. Verse 15 says, "So David reigned over all Israel, and David executed justice and righteousness for all his people." At that time Joab was over the army; Jehoshaphat was recorder; Zadok and Ahimelech were priests; and Seraiah was scribe. Benaiah was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites (the body guard and the runners), and David's sons were his advisers.

### **VIII. SHOWING KINDNESS TO MEPHIBOSHETH THE SON OF JONATHAN**

Chapter nine is a record of David's showing kindness to Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan.

#### **A. For the Sake of Jonathan**

In verse 1 David asked, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show kindness to him for Jonathan's sake?" David felt obliged to show kindness, for the sake of Jonathan, to any remaining descendant of the house of Saul.

#### **B. Finding Out Mephibosheth through a Servant of the House of Saul**

A servant of the house of Saul, whose name was Ziba, was called to David, and David asked him, "Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" (v. 3a). The servant told him that there was still a son of Jonathan, one who was crippled in his feet. When Mephibosheth came to David, David told him not to be afraid, for he would surely show kindness to him for the sake of Jonathan his father. David went on to tell him that he would restore to him all the land of his father Saul and that he would eat food at his table continually (v. 7). Mephibosheth paid homage to David and said, "What is your servant that you should look upon a dead dog like me?" (v. 8).

### **C. Giving All That Belonged to Saul and to All His House to Mephibosheth**

David gave all that belonged to Saul and to all his house to Mephibosheth, making Ziba and his household servants to Mephibosheth. David also asked Mephibosheth, who had a young son and who was crippled in both feet, to dwell in Jerusalem and eat at the king's table continually (vv. 9-13). This was the fulfillment, on David's side, of the covenanted love between him and Jonathan.

## **IX. FURTHER CONQUEST**

Chapter ten is a record of David's further conquest.

### **A. Over Ammon**

David tried to show kindness to Hanun the king of Ammon by sending word through his servants to comfort Hanun concerning his father, who had died (vv. 1-2). However, Hanun insulted the servants of David by shaving off half their beards and cutting away half their garments at the buttocks (vv. 3-5). Seeing that they had become odious to David, the children of Ammon hired soldiers of the Syrians and men of Maacah and Tob (v. 6). When David heard of this, he sent Joab and all the host of mighty men. The men of Israel defeated the Ammonites, Syrians, Maacathites, and Tobites (vv. 7-14).

### **B. Over the Syrians**

The Syrians beyond the Euphrates helped the Syrians from Syria to fight against Israel (vv. 15-16). David defeated all the Syrians, and all the kings who were servants of Hadadezer king of Syria made peace with Israel and served them (vv. 17-19). From this we see that David was altogether victorious, that the surrounding enemies were defeated or subdued, and that many brought tribute to David.

----- [SECTION 2] -----

## **X. DAVID'S INDULGING SIN**

### **A. In the Time while Joab and David's Servants Were Fighting against the Kings of the Canaanites**

David committed the sin described in chapter eleven in the time while Joab and David's

servants were fighting against the kings of the Canaanites. David had sent out Joab and his servants, but he himself remained in Jerusalem (v. 1).

### **B. In His Life of Ease**

After all the enemies of Israel were subdued and David was exalted as the king of Israel, David committed a great sin while he was in a peaceful situation. This indicates that whenever we are in a peaceful situation, it is easy for us to be seduced to indulge our flesh.

Verse 2a tells us that late one afternoon David rose from his bed and went for a walk on the roof of the king's house. Here David was enjoying a life of ease, and his sin was committed during a time of ease. Ease is a big spoiler. We need to labor, toil, and suffer. Instead of damaging us, suffering is a help to us. We need to be occupied with either laboring or suffering.

### **C. In His Indulging of the Lust of the Eyes and the Lust of the Flesh**

David's sin was the issue of his indulging of the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh (vv. 2b-3).

### **D. Committing a Willful Adultery by Robbery**

David committed a willful adultery by robbery, abusing the power of his kingship (vv. 4-5). This was a real insult to God. David's great sin nearly annulled all his attainments from the past.

### **E. Pretending to Cover His Evil Deed**

After committing a willful act of adultery, David pretended to cover his evil deed (vv. 6-13). Eventually, God exposed him.

### **F. Murdering Uriah, His Faithful Servant, by a Conspiracy with Joab**

David murdered Uriah, his faithful servant, by a conspiracy with Joab (vv. 14-25).

### **1. Putting Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Battle and Withdrawing from Him**

In a letter, David instructed Joab to put Uriah in the forefront of the hardest battle and then withdraw from him so he might be stricken down

to death (vv. 14-15). By giving such a word to Joab concerning Uriah, David abused his kingship. Joab did what David commanded, and Uriah was killed.

## **2. Even at the Sacrifice of the Life of Some of the Servants of David**

Not only was Uriah slain, but also “some of the people, some of the servants of David, fell” (v. 17b). This indicates that David murdered Uriah even at the sacrifice of the life of some of the servants of David.

## **3. Comforting and Encouraging Joab**

Joab surely realized that he was involved in a conspiracy to carry out a great sin, and his conscience must have condemned him. David comforted and encouraged Joab, the one who carried out the conspiracy, by saying, “Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your fighting against the city and overthrow it” (v. 25). What a terrible thing for David to say! Uriah was not merely devoured by the sword—he was actually murdered by David so that he could take Uriah’s wife.

David’s behavior here was utterly different from that of Joseph and Boaz. Joseph was tempted, but he ran and escaped from adultery (Gen. 39). Boaz, David’s forefather, also kept himself clean from the indulgence of the flesh of sin (Ruth 3). This purity kept Boaz in the line of the genealogy of Christ. David, however, willingly committed adultery. By his one sin David broke the last five of the Ten Commandments (Exo. 20:13-17).

Before David was crowned and enthroned, he already had a number of wives. Second Samuel 5:13 says that he took more concubines and wives. David was perfect in every way, but he was weak in the matter of the indulgence of the lust of the flesh. The lust of the flesh is like a wild horse. To subdue this lust, we must hold the bridle very tightly. In this matter David was loose, and he sacrificed his high attainment in the pursuit of God. David was a great “diamond,” but his indulgence in lust was a black, foreign particle in this diamond. Even though he was a person of high attainment in his spiritual pursuit, he was still able to commit such a great sin.

## **G. Taking the Wife of the Dead Uriah as His Wife Right after Her Lamentation for Her Husband, Murdered by David**

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. As soon as her mourning was over, David took her as his wife (11:26-27a).

## **H. Displeasing Jehovah to the Uttermost**

The thing that David did displeased Jehovah to the uttermost (v. 27b). David’s sin is referred to elsewhere in the Bible. First Kings 15:5 says, “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, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.” Even in the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1 there is a word regarding this: “David begot Solomon of her who had been the wife of Uriah” (v. 6b). This genealogy does not say “of Bathsheba” but “of her who had been the wife of Uriah,” to emphasize this great sin of David’s.

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## **XI. GOD’S PUNISHING CONDEMNATION**

Second Samuel 12:1-15a speaks of God’s punishing condemnation of David’s sin.

### **A. Through Nathan the Prophet**

God’s punishing condemnation came to David through Nathan the prophet (v. 1a). In chapter seven Nathan had helped David realize that the need in the universe is for God to work Himself into human beings and to build Himself into them. In chapter twelve Nathan came to David to remind him of what he had done and to rebuke him.

### **B. By a Parable Leading David to Condemn Himself for What He Did in Murdering Uriah and Robbing Him of His Wife**

Because David the king had power and because he could have misused this power to kill Nathan the prophet, Nathan was careful in speaking to David. Instead of directly condemning David, Nathan told him a parable which led him to condemn himself for what he had done in murdering Uriah and robbing him of his wife (vv. 1b-7a). When David heard about the rich man who took the poor man’s ewe lamb, David’s

“anger was greatly kindled against the man. And he said to Nathan, As Jehovah lives, the man who has done this is worthy of death; and he shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this thing and because he had no pity” (vv. 5-6). Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man” (v. 7a).

### **C. Referring Him to All the Things That God Had Done for Him**

Nathan went on to refer David to all the things that God had done for him (vv. 7b-8). Especially Nathan referred David to the fact that God had given him the house of Israel and of Judah. Then Nathan said that, if what had been given was too little, God would have added to David even more things.

### **D. Condemning Him for His Murdering of Uriah and His Robbing Him of His Wife**

“Why have you despised the word of Jehovah by doing what is evil in His sight? You have stricken down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife as your wife and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon” (v. 9). Here God, speaking through Nathan, condemned David for murdering Uriah and for robbing him of his wife.

### **E. The Result of God’s Punishing Condemnation**

Nathan told David that because he had despised Jehovah the sword would not depart from his house forever (v. 10). God would raise up trouble against him from within his house. Further, God said that He would take David’s wives before his eyes and give them to his companion, who would lie with them in the sight of the sun (v. 11). David had done this secretly, but God would do it before all Israel and even before the sun (v. 12).

Here we see that God is not only loving; He is also fearful. Under God’s punishment, there was fornication and killing in David’s family, and David’s son, Absalom, even rebelled against him.

### **F. David Confessing His Sin against Jehovah, and Nathan Saying to Him That Jehovah Had Put Away His Sin and That He Would Not Die**

David confessed his sin against Jehovah, and Nathan said to him, “Jehovah has also put away your sin; you will not die” (v. 13). That was God’s mercy to David, for David surely deserved to die. Nevertheless, because David had given the enemies of Jehovah much occasion to blaspheme Him, Nathan told him that the son who was born to him would surely die (v. 14).

When God forgives, He forgets (Jer. 31:34). To forgive is to forget. But it seems that God did not forget this sin of David’s. As we have pointed out, in his record of Christ’s genealogy, Matthew purposely wrote, “David begot Solomon of her who had been the wife of Uriah.” This indicates the seriousness of David’s sin.

We need to learn of David on the negative side as well as on the positive side. The lust of the flesh is a devastating element that can destroy us. If such a godly man as David could be seduced, can we escape? Human beings are human beings, flesh is flesh, and lusts are lusts. We should always keep a distance between ourselves and those of the opposite sex. A young man or young woman should not talk privately with someone of the opposite sex in a closed room. No godly person should be loose in contacting the other sex. Regardless of our attainment in our spiritual pursuit, it is possible for any of us to commit such a sin.