### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 11

1Well, it was the time of year when the kings [traditionally] went out to battle, and David sent JoAb, his servants, and the entire army of IsraEl, and they destroyed the sons of AmMon. Then they laid siege against RabBah. However, David had stayed at home in JeruSalem.  
  
2Then one evening, David got up from his bed and he walked up to the roof of the king’s palace... From there he saw a very pretty woman who was bathing on her roof.  
  
3So David asked about the woman, saying:  
  
 ‘Isn’t that BathSheba, the daughter of EliAb and the woman of UriAh the Hittite?’  
  
4And thereafter David sent messengers that brought her to him… He went to bed and [had sex] with her, then she went back home.  
  
However, she’d just been cleansed from her monthly period; 5so when she sent a message to David telling him that she was pregnant, David said:  
  
 ‘It’s my baby.’  
  
6As a result, David sent [a message] to JoAb, saying:  
  
 ‘Send UriAh the Hittite to me.’  
  
And JoAb sent UriAh to him.  
  
7Well when UriAh arrived, David first asked how JoAb was doing, how the army was doing, and then about how the war was going.  
  
8And David said to UriAh:  
  
 ‘Now, just go back home and wash your feet!’  
  
So UriAh left the king’s palace, and the king had a gift sent to him. 9However, UriAh bedded down next to the door to the king’s palace, along with his lord’s servants, and he didn’t go home.  
  
10Then when David was told that UriAh hadn’t gone home, he went and asked UriAh:  
  
 ‘Didn’t you just return from some distance? Why don’t you go home?’  
  
11And UriAh replied:  
  
 ‘Well, the [sacred] Chest and the armies of Judah and IsraEl are all staying in tents, and my lord JoAb and his men are also camped out in fields; so, how could I go to my house to eat, drink, and go to bed with my woman?  
  
 ‘As you are living, how could I do such a thing?’  
  
12Then David told him:  
  
 ‘Well, stay here for the rest of the [evening], and tomorrow I’ll send for you.’  
  
So UriAh stayed in JeruSalem throughout that night.  
  
  
And the next day, 13David called for him. Then he fed him and gave him so much to drink that he got him drunk! Yet that evening, he again went to bed with the servants of his lord, and he didn’t return to his home.  
  
14So the next morning, David wrote a letter to JoAb, which he asked UriAh to deliver.  
  
15It said:  
  
 ‘Send UriAh into the toughest part of the fighting, right up to the city gate; and then leave him there so he will be cut down and killed.’  
  
16So when JoAb attacked the city, he put UriAh in a place where he knew that the hardest fighting would be done... 17Then when the men of the city came out to fight with JoAb, many of David’s men died along with UriAh the Hittite.  
  
18And thereafter, JoAb sent a report to David with all the details of the battle. He also sent a private message to the king. 19He said this to the messenger whom he sent:  
  
 ‘When you’re describing the battle to the king, 20if the king should get angry and tell you to ask me:  
  
 ‘Why did you approach the city walls to fight them? Didn’t you know that they’d shoot down at you from the walls?  
  
 21‘For, who struck AbiMelek, son of JeroBaal and grandson of Ner? Didn’t a woman drop a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, killing him there in ThamAsi?  
  
 ‘Why did you attack the wall?’  
  
 ‘You must answer:  
  
 ‘Well, your servant UriAh the Hittite also died.’  
  
22So JoAb’s messenger went to the king in JeruSalem and he told David everything that JoAb told him to say about the war. And predictably, David was furious with JoAb, and he said to the messenger:  
  
 ‘Why did he lead [the men] right up to the city to fight?  
  
 ‘Didn’t he know that they’d attack from the walls?  
  
 ‘For, who struck AbiMelek, son of JeroBaal? Didn’t a woman toss a piece of millstone from the wall and kill him in ThamAsi?  
  
 ‘Why did he attack the wall?’  
  
23And the messenger said to David:  
  
 ‘Well, the men attacked us… They came out into the field to meet us, so we fought them there at their city gate.  
  
 24‘Meanwhile, they were also shooting at us from the walls, and many of the king’s servants were killed… Including your subject, UriAh the Hittite.’  
  
25So David said to the messenger:  
  
 ‘Then tell JoAb not to feel bad about it, because the sword cuts both ways. He should intensify the battle against the city, then tear it down and establish a garrison there.’  
  
26Well, when the wife of UriAh heard that her husband had been killed, she was deeply saddened... 27Then, after her period of mourning, David sent for her and had her brought to his palace.  
  
So he married her and she gave birth to his son.  
  
However, this whole thing appeared to be wicked in the eyes of Jehovah!