

The Downfall of David

Character Truth

The Bible does not mask the truth about people:

Noah – drunk	Jacob – lied to father and brother
Abraham – lied	Moses – murdered and lost his temper when hitting the rock
Thomas - disbelief	Peter – lost courage and denied Christ

Setting the Stage

- Had complete trust, faith, dependence on God
- Was anointed King in hostile territory
- Emphasis on perfection

The Lord **preserved** David wherever he went.

2 Samuel 8:6, 14

- Preserved (Yasha): preserve, deliver, make victorious

How ardently would most, if not all readers of David's life have wished that the first verse of this chapter [2 Samuel 11] had been -- "And David died, and was gathered unto his fathers; and his son reigned in his stead." The golden era of his life has passed away; his sun has begun to go down; and what remains of his life is chequered with records of crime and chastisement, of sin and sorrow. What we now encounter is not like a spot but an eclipse; it is not a mere pimple that slightly disfigures a comely face, but a tumour that distorts the countenance and drains the whole body; of its vigour.

W.G. Blaikie

- David is now in his 50s
- Commanders probably don't want him in battle as much (Though he still should have been there for leadership and strategy)

Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

2 Samuel 21:17

In the Spring

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 11:1

- In Assyrian annals, military campaigns considered spring the best time of war. The rainy season in the Middle East ended around the Spring equinox, giving better roads for the troops and grass for their animals to eat.
- Literally: “And at the return of the year, at the time of the marching forth of the kings...”
- This was around the one year anniversary of the time when the Ammonites kings marched against Israel (10.6-19)
- Spring: a time of war, a time of love

Contrast and Irony

2 Samuel 11:1 has 4 verbs: sent, destroyed, besieged, remained

1. David sends his men (to destroy and besiege) BUT he remains
Remain: dwell, remain, sit, abide, stay, have one’s abode (relax, kick your feet up, security, safety)
2. Joab and his men are surrounding Rabbah to starve them before attacking WHILE David sits in luxury partaking of the best
 - David later tries to bring Uriah in on the “luxury” who refuses to do so (see 2 Samuel 11:11)
3. David’s men go out to protect the nation whereas David destroys it from the inside

Path to the Downfall

David did what was **right** in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, **except** in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

1 Kings 15:5

- Two kinds of “right” – correct, righteous, upright, sincere, honest, godly, just, pleasing, straightforward, proper
 - “Right” in own eyes
 - “Right” in God’s eyes

[speaking of a guard tower] We must guard our eye-gate and ear-gate, or the adversary will soon capture the citadel of our heart.

John Bunyon

Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

James 1:15

... having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Ephesians 4:19

David >> desire > sin >> cover up/deception >> murder >> death

David goes so far in wanting to cover up and destroy Uriah that he risks his army's actions in the attack against Rabbah and trivializes the death of his soldiers – whom he caused to die

... no concept of having done wrong – immediately sends for his friend's wife, establishing her openly and shamelessly as his wife.

A.B. Simpson

It is frightful to see how speedily and how utterly the sensitive, spiritual nature of this man of God was paralyzed and petrified by one brief hour of sin.

A.B. Simpson

Sent

Then David **sent** messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

2 Samuel 11:4

- **Sent:** to take, seize, reach out and grab, capture, take up, hold onto, carry off
 - “sent” is used 23 times in chapters 10-12
 - David always uses the word to exert power, control, authority
- David sends for the sin and sends for the cover-up ... God (12:1) sends Nathan and David repents
 - Interesting that 11:27 is the last time in Scripture it says that David “sent” ... only used by God and Joab after (throughout life of David)

Contrast: David – Uriah

David

Fighting Against (nation from inside)
Protector of all people
Loyalty to self
Sovereign
Sends – control, power, authority
Hypocritical
Man of Control (tries to manipulate Uriah)
Grieves for adversaries (Saul, Abner)

Uriah

Fighting for King and Kingdom
Places wife's life and honor in the protection of King
Loyalty to King and KING
Servant
Submits – responds, surrenders, sourced
Honest
Man of Character
David gives no grief for one of his best friends

A man (convert) of foreign ancestry is more righteous than the Israelite King (a man after God's own heart)

Unknown

Uriah drunk is more pious than David sober.

Unknown

Displeased

In David's EYES, the sin has been concealed and covered – the matter now over. But God says that evil must be confronted.

And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 11:27

- **Displeased:** means to tremble or quiver (translated as: displeased, grieve, sad, ill, evil)
 - Used here as “was evil in the eyes of the Lord”
 - David uses this same word to tell Joab not to be displeased that Uriah died (11:25)

God does not let his children sin successfully.

Charles Spurgeon