

**ANOINTED
TRANSFORMED
REDEEMED**
A Study of David

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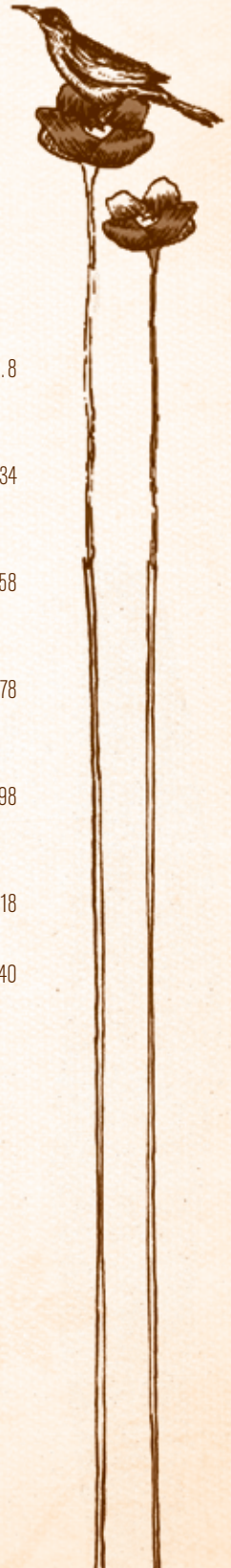
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WEEK FIVE | DAY ONE

Costly Crossroads

“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army” (2 Sam. 11:1 NIV).

Beware of triumph, the confidence of success, its glory and the entitlements thought to go with it. The road to glory is more than a spectacular pinnacle. Yes, beloved, triumph can lead to the mountaintop where the view is so breathtaking that you spread your arms triumphantly to dance with the wind. However, seldom does one build a home and live on the heights forever.

As you’ve seen in your studies with Priscilla and Beth, David has come to the pinnacle of power. Now David is:

- King over all Israel
- Magnet of valiant mighty men—all loyal volunteers who had made it their business to turn all the kingdom to the man they loved
- Defeater of the Philistines and triumphant over the opposition

Although David was denied the privilege of building a house for God, the Lord blessed him with the covenant promise of a house that would endure forever. Indeed, this king was:

- Father to 18 sons and a daughter by the name of Tamar
- Head of the armies of Israel, exercising the luxury of staying home

Success, triumph, achievements—they all put us at crossroads. We’ve achieved a major goal. What is next? Where will we go now? What will we do next?

What happened to King David after all this? I want you to find out for yourself, beloved, because nothing is more effective than discovering truth for yourself and then digging deeper into it, mining and adorning yourself with its treasures. You may be about to reread a familiar story or to read it for the first time. While we are not going to camp on it, we do need to see it so we can put the rest of David’s life in context. In doing so, we will see what we are to do when we come to our own crossroads in life.

CROSSROADS ARE DECISIONS

Since we might have various understandings of what crossroads are, let me give you my definition for the purpose of this study. I am using *crossroads* to indicate the times when we have to make a choice as to the direction we will take—that is all. Every decision leads us somewhere. Having just taught some new friends who captured my heart—friends who happen to live in two prisons in Arkansas—*crossroads* takes on a greater significance as I think of the gravity of our decisions. Like my new friends, many of us don't stop to think about the consequences of our choices and where they will take us.

I know I must live more purposefully. I love life. I love new things. I think I can do more than I can do, and I don't want to miss out on anything. I love the mission, the call, the challenge—and I don't want to miss the party, even (and especially) at my age!

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH

Now let's observe David at the crossroads he faced. I want us to observe 2 Samuel 11:1-17 and see what the text tells us about three people: David, Bathsheba, and Uriah. When you study the Bible inductively—in other words, when you go straight to the Word of God yourself to discover what it says, what it means, and how you are to line up your thinking and behavior with truth—you begin observing the things that are the easiest to see—most often, people.

Now, beloved, read through the text and color-code every reference to each of these people—the major players in this portion of the chapter. (Color-coding helps you highlight information you discover and to see similarities throughout Scripture.) If you don't know what colors to use, you may want to color references to David in purple (a royal color); to Bathsheba, in red, because in David's eyes she was “hot”; and to Uriah, in orange. If you don't have colored pencils, then use symbols: a square for David, a circle for Bathsheba, and an underline for Uriah's name.

2 Samuel 11:1-17, NASB

- 1 *Then it happened in the spring, 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 sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.*
- 2 *Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.*
- 3 *So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”*
- 4 *David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.*
- 5 *The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, “I am pregnant.”*
- 6 *Then David sent to Joab, saying, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” So Joab sent Uriah to David.*
- 7 *When Uriah came to him, David asked concerning the welfare of Joab and the people and the state of the war.*
- 8 *Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.” And Uriah went out of the king's house, and a present from the king was sent out after him.*
- 9 *But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.*
- 10 *Now when they told David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?”*

11 Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.”

12 Then David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

13 Now David called him, and he ate and drank before him, and he made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his bed with his lord’s servants, but he did not go down to his house.

14 Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15 He had written in the letter, saying, “Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die.”

16 So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he put Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant men.

17 The men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David’s servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died.

1. Once you mark a word, then you need to see what you learn from marking the text. Therefore, list what you learned from marking **David**, **Bathsheba**, and **Uriah**.

David

Bathsheba

Uriah

2. Think about what you learned about David. Did you see him at any crossroads? If so, put an X at any verse that shows him at a point of decision. Then consider the choices David made, why he made them, and whether he could have taken any other path.

Finally, dear child of God, as you go about your day, think about the decisions you are making and their consequences. They may be as simple as whether you should say something or as life changing as whether you stay in a relationship.

3. Think about the ramifications of your decisions. First, are you going against any precept in God’s Word? Second, what will be the outcome of your choice? What will it say about your relationship to God? about you as a person?



WEEK FIVE | DAY TWO

Narrow Paths and Broad Roads

“So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, ‘Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’” (2 Sam. 11:3).

David had made a decision. He wouldn't do what kings were supposed to do at that time of year: go to battle (v. 1). General Joab could go; David was going to stay home. Hadn't he earned the right? David was at a crossroad.

Don't you have a tendency to think that because you have triumphed, achieved victory, won the battle, and accomplished your goal, you can relax? You've done your part. You have succeeded. Don't you deserve a break? Haven't you earned it? A cookie. A reward. A vacation. Watch it; you're at a crossroad. Decisions have consequences.

Right now I'm working on my waistline. Many of my belts no longer fit. Why? Because I let my guard down and started to reward myself for my hard work. I sure enjoyed the candy, the popcorn, the ice cream, the butter, the fat; and the reward didn't show up on the scale the next day. So I got away with it? No! It took a while to show up on my waistline, but show up it did! I sowed to the flesh and reaped more flesh!

But back to David. The view was great from the king's roof. Too good. Tempting. Why on earth didn't David go down into his house and satisfy his awakened desires with one of his wives? Why inquire about something you shouldn't have? Yet, inquire he did. And God in His grace put a red light on David's path. You saw it yesterday, didn't you, in verse 3—one of the places where you marked the references to Bathsheba! You also marked it as a crossroad.

1. What did you learn about Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11:3?

These details sound rather unnecessary to the story, a little ho-hum, don't they? I am with you. On the surface they do, until we remember God doesn't waste words. Psalm 12:6 tells us every word of God is pure; it came from God's mouth (Deut. 8:3) and serves a purpose. God wants us to know, just as He wanted David to know, that “the woman” David inquired about was the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite.

2. Does that mean anything to David? Look at 2 Samuel 23:34 to find out. Who was Eliam, Bathsheba's father?

3. Now read 2 Samuel 15:12. Who was Ahithophel?

4. Who was Uriah—just a leftover Hittite? Read 1 Chronicles 11:26,41 and write your answer. (Verse 26 categorizes the list in which you find Uriah's name, so note "what" Uriah was!)

David was at another crossroad, wasn't he? He should have fled from the situation (2 Tim. 2:22).

5. Now look up these verses. What was Job's personal commitment and the apostle Paul's personal advice?

JOB 31:1,9-12

2 TIMOTHY 2:22

The woman was the granddaughter of his advisor, the wife of one of David's valiant men! Those relationships should have stopped David in his tracks. But did they? Where did David go from his pinnacle of success? Up? Down? Across?

You know the story; you've just read it. However, if you hadn't read it, you've probably heard it. Hollywood loves the story! The world absolutely loves it when God's children blow it. It makes them look better, takes away their guilt, and gives them an excuse.

So where did David head? Did he know what he was doing? Could he help himself? Was he exempt? Could David the king break God's commandments and get away with it? Surely God would protect him, cover him. After all, God had made a covenant with him. Besides, God must have wanted to protect His name and reputation.

6. Now go back to 2 Samuel 11:5. What happened? How did it happen?

7. Now look up the following verses and write down the insights you gain that go with what you just read in 2 Samuel.

GENESIS 29:31

1 SAMUEL 1:5-6

1 SAMUEL 2:6

PSALM 139:15

Was this another crossroad? Of course it was! When we sin, what are we to do? And what will God do? See what you learn from these verses. Remember, these are God's words and He watches over His Word to perform it. God stands by His Word.

PROVERBS 28:13

1 JOHN 1:9

8. What path did David take at this crossroad? Confess or cover? How? Why?

9. What happened next? Any other crossroads where something happened that should have gotten David's attention?

THE CROSSROAD OF NARROW PATHS AND BROAD ROADS

Surely noble David should have been convicted by Uriah's refusal to go home and enjoy the intimacy of his beautiful wife. Surely David winced at Uriah's self-discipline that proved this mighty man of the army more noble than himself (2 Sam. 11:11).

If you ever entertained the lust of infidelity, either mentally or physically, you knew deep in your heart it was wrong. What you did with the conviction put you at a crossroad of two paths: a narrow way of obedience or a broad, crowded road traveled by multitudes but unaccompanied by the blessing of a righteous, holy God.

10. What should David have done next (after 2 Sam.11:11)?

11. What did he do at this crossroad?

12. When that path turned into a dead-end, what came next?

DEAD-END CHOICES

If you listed what you learned from marking the references to Uriah yesterday, you know that he died. Let's read the rest of the story. As you do, put a black tombstone like this ☠ over every reference to death and dying. Color-code or mark mourning by drawing tears like this ☹. And color-code or mark as you did before the references to *David*, *Bathsheba*, and *Uriah*.

2 Samuel 11:18-27, NASB

- 18 Then Joab sent and reported to David all the events of the war.
- 19 He charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling all the events of the war to the king,
- 20 and if it happens that the king's wrath rises and he says to you, 'Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?
- 21 'Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?'—then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' "
- 22 So the messenger departed and came and reported to David all that Joab had sent him to tell.
- 23 The messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate.
- 24 "Moreover, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead."
- 25 Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab, 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another; make your battle against the city stronger and overthrow it'; and so encourage him.' "
- 26 Now when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.
- 27 When the time of mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

13. Think about what you just read, beloved. Was Joab taken in by David? Explain your answer.

14. How does David's response to Joab in verse 25 make you feel?

15. What did God think about all this?

16. If you were to stop reading at this point, what might you think happened to David?
Does that thinking line up with what you know about God? How about the truth about God? Do you know what the Bible teaches about God?

17. Was David special? Could he, as king, get away with his actions? Why or why not?

18. What do you learn from the last part of Numbers 32:23?

19. Give an example for how Numbers 32:23 applies to you and others today.

WILL GOD WASH HIS HOLY HANDS OF US?

It's sad to learn these difficult things, isn't it, about a man who was described as a man after God's own heart? Surely God had washed His holy hands of David. There would never be another time of dancing with the wind in the triumph of joy.

Or at least that is what you might think if you don't know God very well. Know this, beloved: If you are not dead, no matter what you have done, God is not finished with you.



WEEK FIVE | DAY THREE

Unrepentant Sinner and God's Storyteller

"For whom the Lord loves, He disciplines" (Heb. 12:6).

Nathan was God's man. Nathan feared God more than the king. Thank God for Nathans—those who are strong and courageous, willing to do as God says. Watch how Nathan brought an unrepentant king face-to-face with his sin and nailed him through a story.

FACE-TO-FACE WITH SIN

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-7, and you'll get the picture for yourself—which it's always good to do. Know what the Bible says. Discover truth for yourself and go deep into it. These are words of life.

1. As you read the text printed out below, color-code the references to David as before, follow the points of Nathan's story carefully, and then watch for David's response.

2 Samuel 12:1-7, NASB

- 1 *Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said,
"There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.*
- 2 *"The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.*
- 3 *"But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb
Which he bought and nourished;
And it grew up together with him and his children.
It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom,
And was like a daughter to him.*
- 4 *"Now a traveler came to the rich man,
And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd,
To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him;
Rather 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, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.*
- 6 *"He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no
compassion."*
- 7 *Nathan then said to David, "You are the man!"*

2. What was the point of Nathan's telling David this story? What did God want David to see?

3. Why?

Isn't it amazing how we can become so indignant over someone else's sin and miss our own? Or have you noticed that many times when people sin and don't deal with it but instead cover it up, they are quick to anger and to attack others?

Rapidly Heading Down the Mountain

We stopped in the middle of verse 7. Let's go back to the conversation between Nathan and a king who is on a slippery road, headed down the mountain! God isn't finished yet.

4. As you continue reading 2 Samuel 12, mark every reference to:

- **David** as you have before
- **God** with a triangle or color all references to Him in yellow
- **Sin** by coloring it brown

2 Samuel 12:7-15, NASB

7 *Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.*

8 *"I also gave you your master's house and 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 down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.*

10 *"Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife."*

11 *"Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I will 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 lie with your wives in broad daylight.*

12 *"Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun."*

13 *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.*

14 *"However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."*

15 *So Nathan went to his house.*

Now, what do you learn from marking the references to the Lord and David? List your insights.

THE LORD

KING DAVID

5. Stop and think about the consequences of David's sin. What was going to happen because of it? Reread verses 10-14 and list what you see in the text, nothing but what is the text. Number the consequences and then compare this list with verse 6, which you marked earlier.

It's one thing to take the whipping yourself and quite another to watch those you love suffer because of your wrong choices at the crossroad.

2 Samuel 12:15-18, NASB

- 15 *Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick.*
- 16 *David therefore inquired of 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 raise 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.*

Read these verses again. I always mark references to *death* and *dying* with a tombstone. "And when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death (Jas. 1:15, NASB). We often forget that the wages of sin is death.

Sin will take you further than you ever wanted to go. It will cost you more than you ever expected to pay. Think about it, beloved. God records all this in His Word for a reason. He wants us to learn from others and remember these things when we come to a crossroad ourselves.

God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It's written in the Law, "be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23). A holy and just God cannot let sin go unpunished.