

Handout: 2 Samuel Lesson 4

Dadu, one of the Rephaim, whose bronze spear weighed three hundred shekels, was about to take him captive. Dadu was girt with a new sword and planned to kill David, but Abishai, son of Zeruiah, came to his assistance and struck and killed the Philistine. Then David's men swore to him, "You must not go out to battle with us again, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

2 Samuel 21:16-17 (NAB)

The narrative in chapters 11-12 is the turning point in the book of 2 Samuel. In the first part of the book we have read about the triumphs in David's life through God's guidance and protection. In the second part of the book we will read about David's tragedies and God's judgments due to David's failures in yielding to temptation and sin in his life. The key word in Chapters 11-12 in the narrative of the sin of David and Bathsheba is the verb "sent." It is used thirteen times in the Hebrew text in 2 Samuel 11:1, 3, 4, 5, 6, (three times), 12, 14, 18, 22, 27; 12:1. In Scripture the number thirteen is often seen as an ill omen representing hostility, rebellion, apostasy, defection, corruption, and judgment.

Uriah's reasons for not going to his own home for the night:

1. The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are not in comfortable houses but are in temporary structures.
2. The king's commander Joab and his guards are camping in the open.
3. It is unseemly for him to go to his house when others who serve Israel and the king are deprived of such comforts including their wives.

Nathan's parable:

1. David is the "rich man."
2. Uriah is the "poor man."
3. Bathsheba is the "little ewe lamb" the poor man loved.

God's judgment against David in verses 10-12:

1. David's family will never be free from violence.
2. David will experience betrayal from within his own household.
3. His betrayer will even sleep with David's wives.

The prophecy of death and violence from within his family during his lifetime will come through four events that fulfill God's judgment in verses 10-12:

1. The death of his son with Bathsheba (2 Sam 12:18).
2. The rape of his daughter Tamar (2 Sam 13:1-22)
3. The murder of his son and heir Amnon (2 Sam 13:28-29).
4. The betrayal and death of his son Absalom (2 Sam 15:10-12; 16:22; 18:28-29).

The three acts of David when the child became ill:

1. He committed himself to intercessory prayer
2. He fasted
3. He wore sackcloth and slept on the floor as acts of penance