

14. King David and a Soldier's Wife

Introduction: In the previous story we heard how David was chosen to be King of Israel when he was a young shepherd boy. After many years, David really did become the King of Israel. God gave peace to David's kingdom, and promised David that his descendants will take over his throne. (2 Samuel 5:3; 7:8–17)

One year around February or March, kings of many countries went out to war. David also sent his Big General out to war, but he himself stayed inside the palace. (2 Samuel 11:1)

One day, when the sun was setting, David got up from his bed. He went to the roof top to walk around, and from there, he saw a beautiful lady taking a bath. (2 Samuel 11:2)

David sent his men to find out who this lady was. Later, they found out this lady was the wife of one of his soldiers. Her name was Bathsheba. (2 Samuel 11:3)

David also sent his men to bring Bathsheba to the palace where he slept with her. Later, Bathsheba went back to her home. (2 Samuel 11:4)

Soon, Bathsheba was pregnant. She sent someone to tell David. (2 Samuel 11:5)

Then, David sent his men to go out to the Big General, to bring back Bathsheba's husband, who was one of his soldiers. (2 Samuel 11:6)

When this soldier came back to see David, David briefly asked him about the war, then he asked him to go home to rest and to meet his family. (2 Samuel 11:8)

However, this soldier did not go home. He went with the other soldiers, sleeping at the door of the palace. (2 Samuel 11:9)

David knew about this, and met this soldier again, asking him, "You have come back from faraway places. Why don't you go home to rest?" (2 Samuel 11:10)

The soldier answered David, "The Big General and other soldiers are all sleeping in the countryside. How can I go home to rest? Here before you, the king, I must speak the truth. I certainly will not do this kind of thing." (2 Samuel 11:11)

David again asked him to stay, treating him with food and wine, and making him drunk. However, when evening came, this soldier still went back to the door of the palace to sleep. He did not go to his home. (2 Samuel 11:13)

The next morning, David wrote a letter, and asked this soldier to bring it to the Big General. This letter said the following: "Put this soldier at the very front, where he will lose his life. Then, all of you retreat, letting him die in the battle." (2 Samuel 11:14–15)

The Big General obeyed what David requested and let this soldier die in battle, and he told this news to David. When David heard of this, he then told the Big General some comforting words, "Ask them not to be sad, when we are in a battle, we do not know who will die and who will live. Quickly attack and capture this city." (2 Samuel 11:16–19;25)

When Bathsheba heard that her own husband had died, she was very sad. After she had spent time grieving for her husband, David sent his men to bring Bathsheba to the palace. (2 Samuel 11:26)

God saw that David did all these things. And God was not pleased. (2 Samuel 11:27)