

2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 11

¹ And it came to pass, when the time of year had come for kings to go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbath; but David remained at Jerusalem.

² And it came to pass toward evening, that David arose from his couch, and walked on the roof of the king's house, and saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And *one* said, "Is not this Bathsheba the daughter of Eliab, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ And David sent messengers, and took her, and went in to her, and he lay with her. And she was purified from her uncleanness, and returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

⁶ And David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ And Uriah arrived and went in to him, and David asked him how Joab was, and how the people were, and how the war was going. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, "Go to your house, and wash your feet." And Uriah departed from the house of the king, and a portion *of meat* from the king followed him. ⁹ And Uriah slept at the door of the king with the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ And they brought David word, saying, "Uriah has not gone down to his house." And David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a *long* journey? Why have you not gone down to your house?" ¹¹ And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields; and shall I go into my house to eat and drink, and lie with my wife? How *should I do this?* As your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹² And David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the day following. ¹³ And David called him, and he ate before him and drank, and made him drunk. And he went out in the evening to lie upon his bed with the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

¹⁴ And the morning came, and David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Station Uriah in front of the *most severe part* of the fight, and retreat from behind him, that he may be wounded and die." ¹⁶ And it came to pass while Joab was watching against the city, that he set Uriah in a place where he knew that valiant men were. ¹⁷ And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell, and Uriah the Hittite died also.

¹⁸ And Joab sent, and reported to David all the events of the war, so as to tell them to the king. ¹⁹ And he commanded the messenger, saying, "When you have finished reporting all the events of the war to the king, ²⁰ then it shall come to pass if the anger of the king shall arise, and he shall say to you, 'Why did you draw near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from off the wall?' ²¹ Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal, son of Ner? Did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from above the wall, and he died in Thebez? Why did you draw near to the wall?' Then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.'"

²² So the messenger of Joab went to the king, to Jerusalem, and he came and reported to David all that Joab had told him, all the affairs of the war. And David was very angry with Joab, and said to the messenger, "Why did you draw near to the wall to fight? Did you not know that you would be wounded from off the wall? Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal? Did not a woman cast upon him a piece of millstone from the wall, and he died in Thebez? Why did you draw near to the wall?" ²³ And the messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us, and they came out against us into the field, and we came upon them, even to the door of the gate. ²⁴ And the archers shot at your servants from off the wall, and some of the king's servants died, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead as well." ²⁵ And David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab: 'Let not the matter be grievous in your eyes, for the sword devours one way at one time and another way at another: strengthen your array against the city, and destroy it, and strengthen him.'"

²⁶ And the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, and she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ And the time of mourning expired, and David sent and took her into his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son: but the thing which David did was evil in the eyes of the Lord.