

2 SAMUEL 11:1-27

The Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin

1

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Structure of the Book

1. David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)
2. David's Troubles (11:1-19:43)
3. Appendix (20:1-24:25)

2

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)

1. Kingdom Reset: A Man After God's Own Heart (1:1-2:7)
2. Accessions & Assassinations (2:8-5:5)
3. Jerusalem Made the Capital of the Kingdom (5:6-6:23)
4. Who Am I, O LORD God, & What Is My House? (7:1-29)
5. David's Kingdom at Its Height (8:1-10:19)

3

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)

2 Samuel 7:1:

Now when the king lived in his house
and the LORD had given him rest
from all his surrounding enemies...

4

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)**2 Samuel 7:8-9:**

"Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David,
'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture,
from following the sheep, that you should be prince
over my people Israel.

"And I have been with you wherever you went
and have cut off all your enemies from before you.
And I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth."

5

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)**2 Samuel 7:11-16, 18:**

"Moreover, the LORD declares to you
that the LORD will make you a house.
When your days are fulfilled
and you lie down with your fathers,
I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom."

6

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)**2 Samuel 7:11-16, 18: (cont'd)**

"He shall build a house for my name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.

"When he commits iniquity,
I will discipline him with the rod of men,
with the stripes of the sons of men,
but my steadfast love will not depart from him,
as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you."

7

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)**2 Samuel 7:11-16, 18: (cont'd)**

"And your house and your kingdom
shall be made sure forever before me.
Your throne shall be established forever..."

Then King David went in
and sat before the LORD and said,
"Who am I, O Lord GOD,
and what is my house,
that you have brought me thus far?"

8

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)**2 Samuel 8:15:**

So David reigned over all Israel.
And David administered justice and equity
to all his people.

9

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Structure of the Book

1. David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)
2. **David's Troubles (11:1-19:43)**
3. Appendix (20:1-24:25)

10

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

David's Troubles (11:1-19:43)

1. **The Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin (11:1-27)**
2. Confrontation, Repentance, Consequences (12:1-31)
3. Sin Within David's House: Amnon & Tamar (13:1-39)
4. The Return of Absalom & Growing Division (14:1-15:12)
5. David in Exile During Absalom's Rebellion (15:13-17:29)
6. Absalom's Defeat & David's Grief (18:1-19:43)

11

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

The Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin (11:1-27)

1. David and Bathsheba:
He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)
2. David and Uriah:
Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)
3. David and Joab:
Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)
4. David and the LORD:
But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD
(11:26-27)

12

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

The Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin (11:1-27)

1. David and Bathsheba:
He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)
2. David and Uriah:
Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)
3. David and Joab:
Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)
4. David and the LORD:
But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

13

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**2 Samuel 11:1:**

In the spring of the year,
the time when kings go out to battle,
David sent Joab, and his servants with him,
and all Israel.

And they ravaged the Ammonites
and besieged Rabbah.

But David remained at Jerusalem.

14

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- David stays home. Here is the paradox of kingship: the very thing that had made David so effective as a leader, his valor and cunning as a warrior and commander, is now closed to him because, as king, his life is deemed to important to risk on campaigns.
- But it is also a sign of looming trouble for this man of action. We are reminded of the danger of idleness. Especially the idleness of kings...

15

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**2 Samuel 11:2:**

It happened, late one afternoon,
when David arose from his couch
and was walking on the roof of the king's house,
that he saw from the roof a woman bathing;
and the woman was very beautiful.

16

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- What exactly is Bathsheba doing there? There is a long tradition of blaming her for bathing on the roof and tempting poor King David. I mean, there she is tempting him. What was the poor man to do?
- Wrong! There is no blame assigned to her whatsoever. The blame is definitively assigned to him only.
- What then? Notice that it doesn't say anything about her being on the roof!

17

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Most likely, she was performing her ritual bath, the *mikvah*, following her period, per what we learn in vs. 4.
- What seems most likely is that she was in the seeming privacy of her courtyard, obeying the law concerning her purification from ritual uncleanness. And this highlights the fact that David is playing God here, looking down on his city with a sense that all of it is his to have as he wishes.

18

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Again, it says nothing about her being on the roof. *He* is the one on the roof of his house, his palace which looms over the city, giving him a godlike perspective over his subjects below.
- Here he is, peering down from his roof over the city. All the young men of fighting age are gone. The women are alone. And he is on the roof, looking around. We might well ask, as the LORD asked of Elijah: "What are you doing here, David?"

19

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Here is a picture of David, not as the shepherd taken from tending the sheep to serve as shepherd of God's flock of Israel, but more like a wolf. Looking down at the City of David with the cold eyes of Big Brother. A tyrant. Absolute power corrupts absolutely, and here is the king pressing his entitlement. All is mine.
- Here we have David playing the part of a king "like all the nations," not like a king of Israel, who is to administer justice and righteous and be submitted to the will of the LORD!

20

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**2 Samuel 11:3:**

And David sent and inquired about the woman.
And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba,
the daughter of Eliam,
the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

21

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- We don't know who Uriah the Hittite is yet, but David should have known, as he was one of his most faithful and important warriors, on of "the Thirty," as we'll see. But this doesn't stop him at all.

22

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**2 Samuel 11:4:**

So David sent messengers and took her,
and she came to him, and he lay with her.
(Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.)
Then she returned to her house.

23

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- David doesn't consider Uriah's loyalty or service to him. He doesn't consider the sanctity of Bathsheba's bond of marriage with Uriah, his faithful and competent servant.
- Rather, as we read, "he sent," "he took," "he lay with her," then he sent her home. Done. David's entitlement to act on his burning desire now satisfied, it's time to move on as if nothing happened. The King has taken what he wanted and brazenly abused his power and privilege. And he has seemingly gotten away with it.
- But then...

24

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**2 Samuel 11:5:**

And the woman conceived,
and she sent and told David,
"I am pregnant."

- *This is the only time Bathsheba speaks in the entire passage (we will examine her silence in a few minutes), but what she does say here hits with seismic force. The extent of the problem that David has created has becomes suddenly apparent. Consequences. For sin.*

25

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Israel had been warned that they would one day regret the king they had demanded. They were told that he would take their young men and their women. And what do we see in this passage? David saw, he took.
- There were already signs of David's drift into self-indulgence. Kings were warned in God's word not to collect wives (Deut. 17:17), but this is what David was busy doing in Jerusalem, being married to Michal, Abigail, Ahinoam, Maachah, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah, and now several others in Jerusalem.

26

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- This is a passage full of lessons on the nature of sin:
- We see here a good example of sin's power to make otherwise smart, God-fearing people engage in incredibly stupid, selfish, and cruel behavior. It's the same old routine that the ancient Serpent has run on us since he deceived Eve in the garden: move the target to a sense of moral autonomy, stoke pride and its entitlements and grievances, then present the object of unrighteous desire as a thing that is good.

27

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- All this has the effect of crowding out better judgment, or even any thoughts of future consequences at all. We've seen that David is not just good, but politically savvy. Obviously – obviously! – to steal the wife of one of your most capable and loyal subordinates is a bad idea. But none of that matters in the heat of lust.
- It's as if David becomes blind to all else and is overcome by this overwhelming thing happening in the present, leading him inexorably toward this action.

28

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**James 1:13-15:**

Let no one say when he is tempted,
 "I am being tempted by God,"
 for God cannot be tempted with evil,
 and he himself tempts no one.
 But each person is tempted
 when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin,
 and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

29

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- The sinfulness of sexual sin is revealed in its furtiveness. Whereas marital intimacy is a thing deemed right and good, inaugurated with public ceremony and wedding vows, sexual immorality is the stuff of secret desire and base behavior, as evidenced by the shame one feels afterward. After David is done with "the woman" he sends her off. There are no words, no intimacy, no love. Just a taking and a breaking of a marital union that belonged to another. The lust is satisfied; now send her away and let's speak of it no more.

30

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Then, three words: "I am pregnant." And now reality comes surging back in. David's delusion that he had gotten away with it, that it was nothing really, no big deal, that it was all over and done with, is now revealed as the self-deception that it was. Oh yes, our sinful actions do have consequences.

31

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Here, by the way, is the grand theme of the Song of Songs: marital love is a gift from God and a joining with the incalculable powers of nature, of spring itself, the surging power of life and procreation, of joining and generating, that is in turn a picture, a glimpse, into the Holy of Holies of God's love for us. Redeemed human desire (Song 7:10) is the very reversal of the fall, and love, "the very flame of the LORD" (Song 8:6), is the greatest blessing by which we can glorify and enjoy God as we enjoy communion with one another.

32

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- But here's the thing: if marital intimacy and sexual desire is a thing so strong and amazing as this, then we dare not play with that "flame" as if it were nothing, something to be toyed with.

Song 2:7:

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the does of the field,
that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

33

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- As Glen Knecht used to say, sexual desire channeled into the righteous bond of love between a husband and wife is an incredibly powerful force. It can be likened to the hearth at the heart of the home which gives the house its warmth. But play with that fire and you'll burn the house down. "Keep the fire in the pot!"
- And speaking of "house": David, who's just been promised a "house" by God, i.e., a dynasty, has now engaged in reckless, sinful behavior which will bring havoc to his house.

34

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Now we'll see the way that sin isn't a passive, static thing, but something that snares, intensifies, and spirals upward and outward, engendering more and more catastrophic results.
- Sin left undealt with, unrepented of, in one part of your life is like a poison that spreads its lethal infection through your whole system – whether we are speaking of a single person or a congregation. It grows and generates other sins, worse sins...

35

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)**1 Corinthians 5:6b-7:**

Do you not know that a little leaven
leavens the whole lump?
Cleanse out the old leaven
that you may be a new lump,
as you really are unleavened.
For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

- *David should have repented then and there. But he didn't. Rather, he chose the tried and tested disaster of cover-up.*

36

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- Before reading further in our passage, let's notice that David was deceived in the heat and intensity and time-bending nature of his lust, where future and past seem to disappear and there is only him and the object of his desire, to which he is now pulled as by some inexorable force. He was deceived, as we all are every time we sin, into thinking that this is good, this will make me happy, satisfied, fulfilled. "I know it's wrong on some level, but everything else in me is saying that it's right, so..."

37

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- But note that he who was initially deceived now becomes the deceiver, as he moves into cover-up mode. He now acts in a Satanic role, seeking to deceive Uriah, to make him complicit with his own sin, leading to still more egregious sin, revealing the snaring, intensifying, spiraling-outward reality of sin.

38

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)

- When the Bible condemns sin, it's not that God is a spoilsport, not wanting us to do fun things. (You know the song: "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints.") It's the deep recognition that sin is vile and hurtful, the stuff of breach and betrayal.
- Sin kills everyone and everything it touches. Sin is not funny or fun. And redemption is about redeeming us from our bondage to sin's dominion. Praise the Lord who delivers us from the world, the flesh, and the devil!

39

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

The Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin (11:1-27)

1. David and Bathsheba:
He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)
2. David and Uriah:
Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)
3. David and Joab:
Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)
4. David and the LORD:
But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

40

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**2 Samuel 11:6-7:**

So David sent word to Joab,
 "Send me Uriah the Hittite."
 And Joab sent Uriah to David.

When Uriah came to him,
 David asked how Joab was doing
 and how the people were doing
 and how the war was going.

41

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- Uriah the Hittite: in 2 Samuel 23, we read of "the Three" and "the Thirty," who were the mightiest men under David's command, for whose valor in his service David owed an immense debt of gratitude and loyalty.
- And we see – rather poignantly, as it turns out – that Uriah's name is listed last among "the Thirty" (2 Sam. 23:39). In other words, Uriah wasn't simply a soldier in David's service, but one of his elite mighty men. In other words, his actions were and would have been seen as an act of despicable betrayal to a loyal servant.

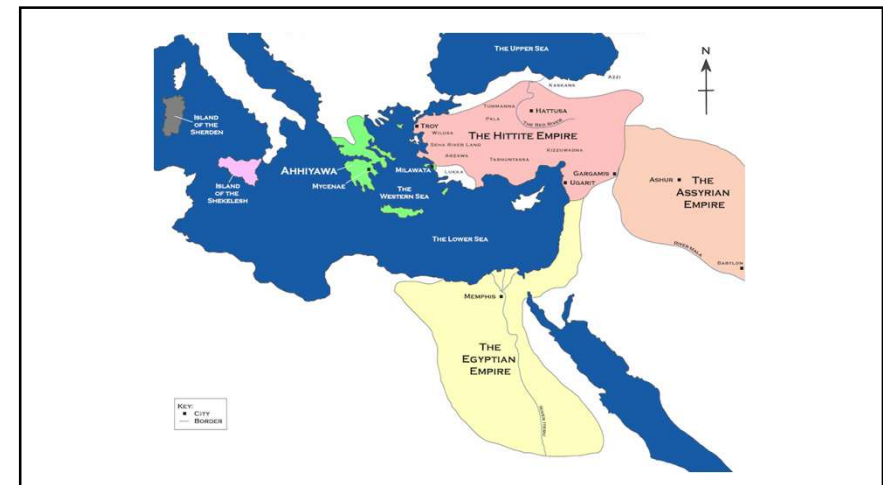
42

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- The Hittites were an Indo-European people originating from central Anatolia (modern Turkey). They were "early adopters" of the new technology of iron, and their location was one rich in iron ore and mineral resources. On account of this, they were one of the first peoples to make use of iron weapons and chariots, and in this shift from bronze age to iron age warfare, as iron was harder and more durable than bronze, it gave those who used it a serious advantage. (See also the Canaanites and their early advantage over Israel, in Judges 1:19.)

43



44

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- There were a series of Hittite kingdoms, the last and greatest of these being the Hittite Empire (c. 1400-1190BC), when it was one of the great powers in the Ancient Near East, alongside Egypt and Assyria. The Empire was one of many that fell during what is now referred to as "the Bronze Age collapse," a period of migrations and invasions by, among others, the Sea Peoples, which led to the collapse of Mycenaean Greece and the Hittite Empire, as well as the severe weakening of New Kingdom Egypt.

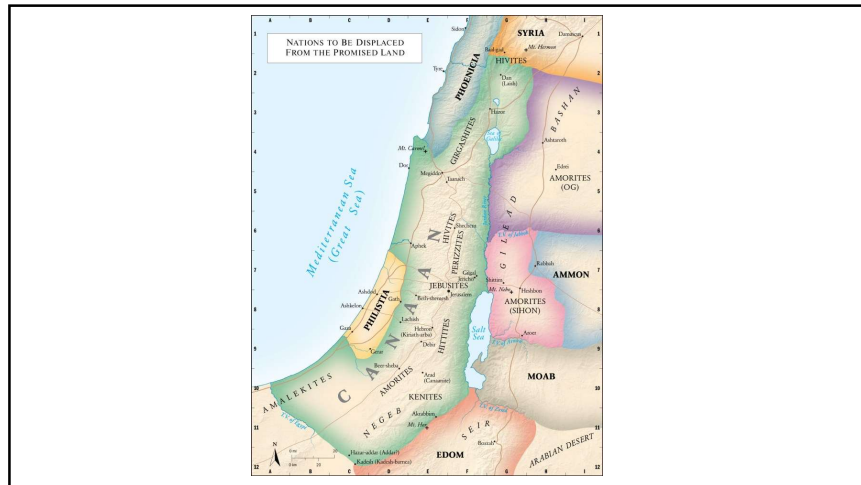
45

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- Afterwards, the Hittites persisted for centuries in a number of smaller "Neo-Hittite" kingdoms and city-states.
- In Israel, the Hittites are listed as one of the several nations occupying Canaan at the time of the Israelite conquest. There was a strong Hittite presence in the far north, in Kadesh. We also see Hittites in the area around Hebron. In Genesis 23:7, Abraham deals with Hittites there, who are called "the people of the land," when he purchases the cave of Machpelah from them.

46



47

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

2 Samuel 11:8-9:

Then David said to Uriah,
"Go down to your house and wash your feet."
And Uriah went out of the king's house,
and there followed him a present from the king."

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.

48

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- Here begins a scene that is almost comical in that the King is trying to get his servant to go home to his wife, but the servant's loyalty and resolute faithfulness keep foiling David's plan.
- But on a darker note, we see the vileness and pettiness of the LORD's Anointed acting this way: seeking to cover his tracks. We see how sin ends up making an enemy of decency and even of steadfast loyalty. This man who ought to be prized for his goodness and valor, is frustrating to David for precisely this reason!

49

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- We see that the Hittite is more righteous than the Israelite here. And given that the Israelite in question is none other than Israel's Anointed One, the type of the Christ to come, this is a truly shameful thing.
- This is not the David of 2 Samuel 8:15, who "administered justice and equity to all his people." This is a king playing the despot and the tyrant. A king "like all the nations" (1 Sam. 8:5), not the Anointed Shepherd of God's people.

50

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**2 Samuel 11:10:**

When they told David,
 "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?"

51

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**2 Samuel 11:11:**

Uriah said to David,
 "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths,
 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?
 As you live, and as your soul lives,
 I will not do this thing."

52

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**2 Samuel 11:12:**

Then David said to Uriah,
 "Remain here today also,
 and tomorrow I will send you back."

So Uriah remained in Jerusalem
 that day and the next.

53

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**2 Samuel 11:13:**

And David invited him,
 and he ate in his presence and drank,
 so that he made him drunk.

And in the evening he went out
 to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord,
 but he did not go down to his house.

54

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- Round Two: Now David tries to get Uriah drunk, in order to loosen his inhibitions and to lessen his sense or awareness of his duty. Here again, this would be comical in the way that the King's plans are foiled because of the loyalty and faithfulness of his servant. But it is dark: David has betrayed a man who had served him faithfully. Now, to cover it up, he is trying to get him to be less than the dutiful person he's been, which has been his very strength in David's service. It is ironic. But more: David's behavior here is rooted in Satan's M.O.

55

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)

- Was Uriah wrong to disobey direct orders from the king? Certainly not! Especially given that the orders were neither wise nor good. Though it frustrated David no end, Uriah remained steadfastly loyal and faithful throughout the entire incident. How ironic it is that David in seeking to cover-up his sin, is now frustrated by the strength and loyalty of his servant, qualities that he should prize!
- In this, we see the folly of sin, the way that there is no wisdom in injustice, only vileness and breach.

56

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

The Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin (11:1-27)

1. David and Bathsheba:
He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)
2. David and Uriah:
Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)
3. David and Joab:
Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)
4. David and the LORD:
But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

57

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)**2 Samuel 11:14-15:**

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

In the letter he wrote,
"Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting,
and then draw back from him,
that he may be struck down, and die."

58

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)**2 Samuel 11:16-17:**

And as Joab was besieging the city,
he assigned Uriah to the place
where he knew there were valiant men.

And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab,
and some of the servants of David among the people fell.

Uriah the Hittite also died.

59

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)**2 Samuel 11:18-20:**

Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting.

And he instructed the messenger,
"When you have finished telling all the news
about the fighting to the king,
then, if the king's anger rises,
and if he says to you,
'Why did you go so near the city to fight?
Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?'"

60

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)**2 Samuel 11:21-22:**

"Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth?
 Did not a woman cast 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.'"

So the messenger went and came
 and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell.

61

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)**2 Samuel 11:23-24:**

The messenger said to David,
 "The men gained an advantage over us
 and came out against us in the field,
 but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.
 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall.
 Some of the king's servants are dead,
 and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

62

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)**2 Samuel 11:25:**

David said to the messenger,
 "Thus shall you say to Joab,
 'Do not let this matter trouble you,
 for the sword devours now one and now another.
 Strengthen your attack against the city
 and overthrow it.'
 And encourage him."

63

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

- This is such mafia-type stuff here. Uriah is killed on orders of the boss, simply for having been too loyal to the very boss who had betrayed him!
- And the underboss, if you will, Joab, never has any problem with killing. There is no questioning the orders from the boss.
 "When you gotta go, you gotta go."

64

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

- It really does help grasp these dynamics when we watch dramas about the politics of the harem and of succession in imperial China, or about the mafia, because it helps explain so much of the ruthless landscape into which we enter when reading 1 and 2 Samuel. This was normal life in that ancient world. What is unusual is not the predatory behavior and wickedness of those in power in the Ancient Near East, or in the Modern Middle East (see Saddam Hussein, who posed as the “shepherd” and “father” of his people while being a wolf), or anywhere. No, what is unusual is the fact of Israel’s being ~~formed and retained by God to be something better~~

65

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

- In any event, it is so sad to read this passage, given that we’re talking about King David here: the author of the Psalms, the man after God’s own heart, the shepherd boy of great valor.
- Lord Acton’s adage stands: “Power tends to corrupt. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” And we see David’s corruption here. David, snared by sin, covering up like a coward, and all of it spiraling into a disaster for his house. There’s nothing funny about this now. Uriah is dead.

66

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

- See how sin has spiraled from David’s having been initially deceived and blinded by his own lust, to his subsequent shame and panic and unsuccessful effort to cover-up (by which the deceived becomes the deceiver, betraying again the loyal servant whom he’d already betrayed), leading him to order the murder of that faithful servant.
- Consider the astounding and churlish entitlement David is displaying here! “He whom I betrayed must die so that my sin remains concealed. I’m just that important!”

67

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

- In sum, we see again that sin is like a poison or a pollution. Left undealt with and unrepented of, it spreads and infects the entire body, with new manifestations that seem on the surface wholly unrelated to the initial expression. Lust left to linger in the eyes becomes lust cultivated in the heart becomes sexual immorality and betrayal becomes lies and compounded betrayal becomes murder.
- When it comes to sin, we might say, in a reversal of our national motto, it’s *e unum, pluribus*.

68

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

- Surely, this is what Jesus is warning us about in the Sermon on the Mount. Beware of cultivating the root of unrighteous anger or of unrighteous lust in your heart. What you think is secret and contained is in fact the root of murder, adultery, betrayal, and breach that can upend lives and houses.
- Be mindful of the connection between our inner world and the way it tends to express itself (Matt. 12:34).

69

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)

As Ralph Waldo Emerson put it:

Sow a thought, reap an action.
Sow an action, reap a habit.
Sow a habit, reap a character.
Sow a character, reap a destiny.

70

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing Displeased the LORD (11:1-27)

1. David and Bathsheba:
He Saw From the Roof a Woman Bathing (11:1-5)
2. David and Uriah:
Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)
3. David and Joab:
Set Uriah in the Forefront of the Hardest Fighting (11:14-25)
4. **David and the LORD:**
But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

71

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)**2 Samuel 11:26-27a:**

When the wife of Uriah heard
that Uriah her husband was dead,
she lamented over her husband.

And when the mourning was over,
David sent and brought her to his house,
and she became his wife and bore him a son.

72

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

- Perhaps David thought at this point that he'd dodged the bullet. A bit hairy there, but he pulled it off. Not his proudest moment, but now Bathsheba was his, yet another wife for his collection, and another son. He'd sinned and seemed to have gotten away with it. Lightning never struck!
- But then we come to the last verse, which upends everything, and as we'll see will set off a crushing series of blows that are the consequences of David's egregious sins and betrayals.

73

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)**2 Samuel 11:27b:**

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

- *The first time the LORD is mentioned in this chapter!*

74

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

- David thought he'd safely left the sin in the past. He'd gotten away with it. He was king, and who was going to question him anyway? Who would dare? Joab? He's a thug. No, I've gotten away with this one.
- Except God saw it, and it displeased him. And this will set in motion a terrible chain of events.

75

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

- *God sees all things. There is no hiding from his knowledge!*

Psalms 33:13:

The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
from where he sits enthroned
he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth,
he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

76

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

Psalm 139:11-12:

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

77

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

Proverbs 15:11:

Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD;
how much more the hearts of the children of man!

Hebrews 4:13:

No creature is hidden from his sight,
but all are naked and exposed
to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

78

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

But the Thing That David Had Done Displeased the LORD (11:26-27)

Psalm 90:8:

You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

Mark 4:22-23:

"Nothing is hidden except to be made manifest;
nor is anything secret except to come to light.
If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

79

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- **The Inversion of Duty:** David, as the anointed king of God's people, was supposed to uphold justice and righteousness. Instead, he abused his absolute power to steal another man's wife and manipulate a loyal soldier.
- The man after the LORD's own heart had stumbled into sin. There is a message and strong warning here for every one of us: we must beware of the persisting power of sin to snare us and to wreak havoc in our lives. We must never underestimate either our own proneness to wander or the ease by which we can be

80

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- But it is even worse than that, in that this egregious behavior was done by David, in full awareness of how wrong it was (as evidenced by the lengths to which he went to conceal it). This is the LORD's Anointed, called and commissioned to serve as the Shepherd of God's people, here acting as a wolf and as a tyrant.

81

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- Two lessons. First, even the best of men are men at best!
- All of us, even the most seemingly spiritually mature and wise and learned, are prone to be deceived by sin's deception (the lie that thinking or acting upon this thing, whatever it is, though God has said it is wrong, will in fact make us happy, satisfied, fulfilled), and then prone as well, instead of being quick to repent, to resort to lies in an effort to cover it up (like fig leaves), leading to still greater sins and our complicity with Satan

82

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- Above all else, beware of the silent sin of pride that engenders grievance and resentment in you, that stokes your sense of entitlement to things that you know, in moments of clarity, that God has said no to.
- And beware of sin's power to muddle you, to close off the horizons of past and future and to conceal any thought of consequences.
- It is a fool who underestimates the power of the world, the flesh, and the devil to snare us in a web of sins. But remember this: our Redeemer is stronger still!

83

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- Second, David may be a type of Christ, but he is no Christ. We are rightly afraid of the power of kings, because no human born in sin is able to wield that power required to administer justice and righteousness and to do so without being corrupted. So we wisely develop checks and balances, to protect us *from ourselves*.
- But remember that we as Christians are monarchists! We are servants of the true King, the King of kings, who alone is worthy and righteous and just in all things!

84

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- As for Bathsheba, her silence is telling. What power did she have against the power of an absolute monarch set on abusing his privileges and power? None at all. So her silence is both understandable, and revealing. But when she does talk, those three words upend David's house: "I am pregnant." Your action has consequences, and those consequences are now kicking in.

85

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- What should she have done? What would you have done? I supposed that she could have followed the example of Lucretia, who killed herself after being raped by the son of Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the last tyrannical king of Rome – an event that set off the revolt that led to the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the Roman Republic in 509 BC.
- But she didn't do that. As we'll see, she chose the path of life and vindication.

86

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- As we'll see when we get to 1 Kings, Bathsheba will prove herself an adept political operator, seeing that her son, Solomon, not only survives the lethal environment of court politics in the throes of a succession crisis, but outmaneuvers his rivals and accedes to the throne as David's heir and successor.
- God would turn Bathsheba's pain and powerlessness into vindication and victory. (See Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28.)

87

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary

- Finally, let's examine Uriah's noble refusal to play along with David's deception. When David tried to trick Uriah into going home to lay with Bathsheba, Uriah refused on the grounds that the ark, Israel, and the army were camping in the open fields. Uriah's self-sacrifice and his commitment to duty and his loyalty serve as a powerful indictment of David's self-indulgence.
- Christian, when confronted by sinful authority, be like Uriah the Hittite!

88

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Summary**Acts 5:29:**

But Peter and the apostles answered,
"We must obey God rather than men."

- *When confronted by evil, we as Christians are called to obey God and to continue faithfully in our service. Uriah is a marvelous example of what Peter calls us to do in 1 Peter 2:*

89

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25:**

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles
to abstain from the passions of the flesh,
which wage war against your soul.
Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable,
so that when they speak against you as evildoers,
they may see your good deeds
and glorify God on the day of visitation.

90

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25: (cont'd)**

Be subject for the Lord's sake
to every human institution,
whether it be to the emperor as supreme,
or to governors as sent by him to punish
those who do evil and to praise those who do good.
For this is the will of God,
that by doing good you should put to silence
the ignorance of foolish people.

91

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25: (cont'd)**

Live as people who are free,
not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,
but living as servants of God.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood.
Fear God. Honor the emperor.

92

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25:** (cont'd)

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect,
 not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.
 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God,
 one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.
 For what credit is it if,
 when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure?
 But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure,
 this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

93

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25:** (cont'd)

For to this you have been called,
 because Christ also suffered for you,
 leaving you an example,
 so that you might follow in his steps.

94

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25:** (cont'd)

He committed no sin,
 neither was deceit found in his mouth.
 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return;
 when he suffered, he did not threaten,
 but continued entrusting himself
 to him who judges justly.

95

THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART FALLS INTO SIN

Send Me Uriah the Hittite (11:6-13)**1 Peter 2:11-25:** (cont'd)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
 that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
 By his wounds you have been healed.
 For you were straying like sheep,
 but have now returned to the Shepherd
 and Overseer of your souls.

Amen!

96