

Bathsheba – Wife of David and Mother of Solomon

In 2 Samuel the story of how Bathsheba becomes involved with David is told. Although Bathsheba is married, David calls for her to come to him. She becomes pregnant. David plans to have her husband, Uriah, placed in the front lines of battle so that he is killed. This leaves Bathsheba and David free to wed after a period of mourning. Their baby becomes ill and dies, but soon after this has happened Bathsheba becomes pregnant again and gives birth to Solomon.

Bathsheba appears passive in her early relationship with David, but she becomes active at the end of David's life in her desire to ensure that her son, Solomon, will be king. She plots with the prophet Nathan to convince David that he promised that Solomon would be king. The first three of David's sons have died by this time so the decision rests between Solomon and Adonijah who is the son of Haggith, another wife of David. Bathsheba succeeds in having Solomon designated as David's successor. When Solomon becomes king, Adonijah asks Bathsheba to approach Solomon with a request. He would like to have one of David's concubines, Abishag, as his wife. This request infuriates Solomon and he has Adonijah killed.

Though what we read of Bathsheba is riddled with acts of immorality, it is of interest to remember that she appears in the lineage of Jesus as the wife of Uriah.