

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 48 – Nathan Rebukes David Through Absalom Coming Into Jerusalem (II Samuel 12-15)

1. How did David respond to the story Nathan tells him?

- “*And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity*” (II Samuel 12:1-6).

2. Does David's response show him to be a hypocrite or a just man?

- David is a hypocrite for he shows in his answer that he understands the sins which he committed concerning Bathsheba. As Nathan establishes, David is the man condemned by application: “*And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon*” (II Samuel 12:7-9).

3. What punishment will David face because of his sins committed concerning Bathsheba?

- “*Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die*” (II Samuel 12:10-14).

4. What ended up happening to David and Bathsheba's first child?

- “*And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he*

*eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead” (II Samuel 12:15-19).*

5. How did David deal with what happened to his child?

- *“Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me” (II Samuel 12:20-23).*

6. What does David do with Bathsheba after comforting her?

- *“And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him” (II Samuel 12:24).*

7. What does the name “Jedidiah” mean (using your concordance / dictionary)?

- The term used in **II Samuel 12:25** is “yed-ee-deh-yaw” (Strong’s #3041) means: “beloved of Jah; Jedidejah, a name of Solomon” (Strong’s); “beloved of Jehovah; the name given to Solomon through Nathan the prophet” (BDB).

8. What did Joab do for David?

- *“And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city. And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, **I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters. Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.** And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. And **he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head.** And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance. And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem” (II Samuel 12:26-31).*

9. What woman did Amnon desire to have?

- His sister Tamar, who was a virgin and he realized it wrong to desire her (**II Samuel 13:1-2**)?
- This is a sinful desire (**Leviticus 20:17** and **Deuteronomy 27:22-23**).

10. What was Jonadab's plan to get Amnon the woman he desired?

- *“But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man (cf. II Corinthians 11:3). And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand” (II Samuel 13:3-5).*

11. Did Amnon decide to carry out Jonadab's plan?

- *Yes: “So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister” (II Samuel 13:6-11).*

12. Was the woman of Amnon's desires willing to be with him as he wanted?

- *No: “And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her” (II Samuel 13:12-14).*

13. How long does Amnon's desires for this woman continue?

- *Until he is finished raping her: “Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her” (II Samuel 13:15-17).*

14. What did Absalom advise the woman concerning Amnon and his actions?

- *“And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace,*

*my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house" (II Samuel 13:18-20).*

15. What happens to Amnon?

- Absalom has all the king's (David) sons for a feast and has Amnon killed when he is merry with wine two years after Amnon raped Tamar (II Samuel 13:23-29).
- To kill Amnon had been in Absalom's heart since the day Tamar was raped (II Samuel 13:32).

16. What erring information did David receive concerning his sons?

- It was told him that they were all dead (II Samuel 13:30), but only Amnon had been killed (II Samuel 13:32-33; 36) as the others fled on their mules (II Samuel 13:29).

17. Was David angry with Absalom?

- No: *"But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years. And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead. Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom"* (II Samuel 13:37-14:1).
- Remember, David was angry with Amnon for raping his daughter (II Samuel 13:21).

18. What was the purpose of Joab sending Tekoah to speak with David?

- She told him a story in which David was to learn reason and to retrieve his son Absalom back to him (II Samuel 14:1-17; 21).

19. Did David realize Joab was behind the sending of Tekoah and the words which she spake?

- He sure did (II Samuel 14:18-20).

20. Did Joab's goal in sending Tekoah to David work?

- Yes, David sent for Absalom but did not see his face when he returned sending him to his own house (II Samuel 14:21-24).

21. What did Absalom do to get Joab to bring him before David?

- *"So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face. Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come. Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire? And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me. So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom"* (II Samuel 14:28-33).

22. What did Absalom do as people came to see David?

- *“And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: **so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel**” (II Samuel 15:1-6).*

23. What was Absalom really up to when he asked David for permission to go to Hebron to pay a vow unto the Lord?

- *“And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron. For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD. And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron. But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing. And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom” (II Samuel 15:7-12).*

24. What did David do when a messenger came to David saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom” (II Samuel 15:13)?

- *“And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword. And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint. And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house. And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off. And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king” (II Samuel 15:14-18).*

25. What was Ittai's response when David instructed him to go back?

- *“Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee. **And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth,***



*surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be” (II Samuel 15:19-21).*

26. What did David instruct concerning the Ark of the Covenant and the priest who was also a seer?

- *“And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city. And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation: But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him. The king said also unto Zadok the priest, Art not thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me. Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there” (II Samuel 15:24-29).*

27. What was the demeanor of David and those with him in their departure?

- They were weeping (II Samuel 15:23; 30).

28. What did David learn about Ahithophel who was his counselor (II Samuel 15:12)?

- David learned that Ahithophel was part of the conspiracy and he prayed that Ahithophel’s counsel would be turned to foolishness (II Samuel 15:31).

29. What was David’s plan concerning his friend Hushai?

- *“And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head: Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me: But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel. And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear. So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem” (II Samuel 15:32-37).*