



BATHSHEBA (BATHSHUA)

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Who is Bathsheba?

Bathsheba meant “Seventh daughter or Daughter of plenty”. She was also called as “Bathshua”. She was the daughter of Eliam (called as Ammiel, he is a warrior) and a grand daughter of Ahithophel. She was the wife of Uriah, the Hittite who was one of the valiant men in King David’s army (2 Samuel 23:39). She later became David’s wife after her first husband died in the battle. She bore 4 sons for David, namely, Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon (1 Chronicles 3:5).

One day when King David was on his rooftop gets to see Bathsheba bathing in her place. Her beauty coveted him and upon enquiring he got to know that she was Uriah’s wife. Knowing that Uriah was on the battlefield, he sent men to bring Bathsheba to him. He lay with her and she got pregnant. Upon knowing that, David plots to bring back Uriah home to hide the adultery committed. But Uriah stayed away from home in good intentions. So, King David sent back Uriah with a letter to Joab stating to place him on the front line of the soldiers to be killed by the enemy. Joab did what was commanded. Uriah was killed in the battle and after the days of mourning were over, King David brought Bathsheba to his place as wife and she bore a son to him. God was very displeased with David’s action.

God sent Nathan the prophet and pointed out David’s sin. David repented but God clearly told that He would strike his child. So the child Bathsheba bore to David died irrespective of him fasting and praying with a repentant heart. After that Bathsheba bore Solomon to David and named him as Jedidiah meaning that he was of the Lord.

At one point of David’s lifetime, he had to run away into the wilderness from his own son, Absalom. During that time, with the counsel of Ahithophel (Bathsheba’s grandfather), Absalom went into David’s concubines. The word of God through Nathan was fulfilled: “[2 Samuel 12:11,12](#) - Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ”

When David was very old, his son born to Haggith, Adonijah proclaimed himself as King and was sacrificing animals and had invited all of the sons of the King except Solomon, Nathan the prophet and few ministers of King David. So

Nathan approached Bathsheba and asked her to mention it to King David about this as well as about Solomon becoming a King after David. She did the same; went to the King David and reminded about his promise that Solomon would be his heir for the throne and he should announced it to the nation of Israel as they were waiting for his word. Nathan followed Bathsheba and reinforced it too. So David declared and established Solomon as the King of Israel.

After David's death, Adonijah approached Bathsheba for recommending to Solomon in giving Abishag the Shunammite as wife to him. When Bathsheba met Solomon, he bowed her and made her seated at his right hand. Then, after listening to her request, he said that she could ask his Kingdom for Adonijah, as he is his elder brother and not only for him but also for Joab as well as Abiathar. He understood Adonijah's deceitfulness and ordered him to put to death.

Bible Account:

1 Chronicles 3:5; 2 Samuel 11:2-27; 2 Samuel 12:13-25; 2 Samuel 23:34; 1 Kings 1:9-21, 28-31; 1 Kings 2:13-25; NKJV

1 Chronicles 3:5 - *And these were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon—four by Bathshua the daughter of Ammiel.* (2 Samuel 5:14; 1 Chronicles 14:4).

2 Samuel 11:2-27 - ²Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold. ³So David sent and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, "*Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*" ⁴Then David sent messengers, and *took* her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "*I am with child.*"

⁶Then David sent to Joab, *saying*, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. ⁸And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift *of food* from the king followed him. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

¹¹And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open

fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”¹² Then David said to Uriah, “Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.¹³ Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.”¹⁶ So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there *were* valiant men.¹⁷ Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And *some* of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

¹⁸Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war,¹⁹ and charged the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king,²⁰ if it happens that the king’s wrath rises, and he says to you: ‘Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?’²¹ Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?’— then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’ ”

²²So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.²³ And the messenger said to David, “Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate.²⁴ The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and *some* of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”²⁵ Then David said to the messenger, “Thus you shall say to Joab: ‘Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.’ So encourage him.”

²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.²⁷ And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

2 Samuel 12:13-25 - ¹³So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also *who is* born to you shall surely die.”¹⁵ Then Nathan departed to his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and it became ill.¹⁶ David therefore pleaded with God

for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷ So the elders of his house arose *and went* to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸ Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, “Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!”

¹⁹ When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.” ²⁰ So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹ Then his servants said to him, “What *is* this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child *while he* was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” ²² And he said, “While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who can tell *whether* the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’” ²³ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

²⁴ Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, ²⁵ and He sent *word* by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

2 Samuel 23:34 - Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite.

1 Kings 1:9-21 - ⁹ And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which *is* by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king’s sons, and all the men of Judah, the king’s servants. ¹⁰ But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother. ¹¹ So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?” ¹² Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³ Go immediately to King David and say to him, ‘Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, “Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne”? Why then has Adonijah become king?’” ¹⁴ Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words.”

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.) ¹⁶ And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, “What is your wish?”

¹⁷Then she said to him, “My lord, you swore by the Lord your God to your maidservant, *saying*, ‘Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.’ ¹⁸So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about *it*. ¹⁹He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited. ²⁰And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders.”

²⁸Then King David answered and said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king. ²⁹And the king took an oath and said, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, ³⁰just as I swore to you by the Lord God of Israel, saying, ‘Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ so I certainly will do this day.” ³¹Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, “Let my lord King David live forever!”

1 Kings 2:13-25 - ¹³Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. So she said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably.” ¹⁴Moreover he said, “I have something *to say* to you.” And she said, “Say it.” ¹⁵Then he said, “You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother’s; for it was his from the Lord. ¹⁶Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me.” And she said to him, “Say it.” ¹⁷Then he said, “Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife.” ¹⁸So Bathsheba said, “Very well, I will speak for you to the king.”

¹⁹Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king’s mother; so she sat at his right hand. ²⁰Then she said, “I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me.” And the king said to her, “Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you.” ²¹So she said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife.”

²²And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, “Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also—for he *is* my older brother—for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.” ²³Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, “May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own



life! ²⁴ Now therefore, as the Lord lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!" ²⁵ So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.

Insight for US:

- Two of Bathsheba's sons, Nathan become Mary's lineage and Solomon become Joseph's lineage.
- She addressed King David "Lord" as Sarah used for Abraham. This shows the respect she had for King David.
- She brought her son Solomon in the true worship of God of Israel and trained him in His way.

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Gal220Ministries.org & XpressChrist@gmail.com