

The kingdom of Israel under Saul had diminished in power & reputation but now under David's reign, almost overnight became perhaps the most powerful & respected single kingdom on earth at that time. David seeks to show kindness is misinterpreted & ends in war-Suspicion-family-friends-no win

1 Now it happened afterwards that the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son became king in his place. 2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent some of his servants to console him concerning his father. But when David's servants came to the land of the Ammonites, 3 the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David is honoring your father because he has sent consolers to you? Has David not sent his servants to you in order to search the city, to spy it out and overthrow it?" 4 So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle as far as their hips, and sent them away. 5 When they told it to David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. And the king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and then return."

Not recorded is the kindness Nahash showed to David when fleeing from Saul. So David sends envoys to give comfort & congratulate Hanun on his new position as King. **Worthless counselors are a curse to leadership.** Suspicion & Paranoia are destructive roommates, ***'By presumption comes nothing but strife' Pr 13:10***

In the East a man's beard is a sacred part of the man. His dignity & honor is exhibited by his facial hair. He even pledges & swears oaths-agreements by his beard. One of the most demeaning & greatest insults is what they did; shaving half of the beard as a mockery and humiliation. Plus to uncover part of his body is considered immoral.

6 Now when the sons of Ammon saw that they had become odious to David, the sons of Ammon sent and hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob and the Arameans of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob with 12,000 men. 7 When David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty men. 8 And the sons of Ammon came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the city, while the Arameans of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

A declaration of war to insult David's envoy & in so doing an insult to David himself, but foolish king Hunan wasn't prepared to go against a seasoned general like Joab & king David who proved himself on the battle field time & time again so he hired fighters, 33,000 from various places while David sent his mighty men under the command of Joab.

9 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him in front and in the rear, he selected from all the choice men of Israel, and arrayed them against the Arameans. 10 But the remainder of the people he placed in the hand of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the sons of Ammon. 11 And he said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the sons of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come to help you. 12 "Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight." 13 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to the battle against the Arameans, and they fled before him. 14 When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans fled, they also fled before Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab returned from fighting against the sons of Ammon and came to Jerusalem.

Joab uses strategy in his battle plan to defeat the enemy...reckless & w/o it lives are lost.. ***Foreign Affairs Committee This report presents the findings of the committee majority's investigation into the Biden-Harris administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. The withdrawal culminated in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack on August 26, 2021, which killed 13 U.S. servicemembers, wounding another 45, & killed more than 170 Afghan civilians. The withdrawal concluded on August 30, 2021, when the last U.S. military aircraft left Afghanistan.***

Lk 14:31 "Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

Joab wisely divided his forces, putting his brother Abishai in charge of a second command---strategy is to fight on two fronts to defeat the enemy
A good leader encourages the men to 'be strong' the battle is the Lords.
 Trusting the sovereignty of God.

15 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. 16 And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam; and Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer led them. 17 Now when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Arameans arrayed themselves to meet David and fought against him. 18 But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed 700 charioteers of the Arameans and 40,000 horsemen and struck down Shobach the commander of their army, and he died there. 19 When all the kings, servants of Hadadezer, saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Arameans feared to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

David joins the battle, leading his troops to victory over Arameans, Syrians & subsequently became vassal states as David's kingdom grew. David a man of war fighting the battles of the Lord & God gave the victory extending Israel's empire **South** to the River of Egypt, to Euphrates River on **West** & to the **East** conquering Edom, Moab, Ammon (Gaza) & **North** Hamath. David & his mighty men were unstoppable—Victory can be a time of greatest temptation-**not defeat or trial**

David brought down the giant Goliath in the valley of Elah but he couldn't bring down the giant of lust in his own life. If the enemy can't conquer you from the outside he will work from the inside. Success not failure is our greatest time of **danger**. When we win, when at our best, feeling invincible is our most **vulnerable** time. *Can't get any better than this*

David finally at peace, decade of trial on run from Saul is over, having success in battle, kingdom united, security & calm begins to settle over the land w/ enemy on the run & victory at hand David relaxes, lowers his guard, settles into complacency, unaware of the enemy w/in, giant of lust plotting.

1 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.

Temptation enters when we stay back & are not involved in the fight, sending other to do what we are called to do. Elisha sent his staff 2Ki 4.

When we take ourselves out of the battle we become prey for the enemy w/ many temptations.

2 Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 And David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

"Idol hands are the devil's workshop" First look is free, you can't help it but the second look costs you. It begins the process of lust & on it's heels sin and death. **James 1:13-15** *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

You can't help a bird landing on your head but you can stop it from building a nest. Goliath of lust coming after David...Lust of the eyes, lust of flesh seeing Bathsheba & wanting her, pride of life getting her I'm king I can have her.

You can choose your sin but you can't choose the consequence. Sin is a steep slide & there's no stopping unless repent & turn to Lord. **CCCM vision**

Sin like leaven, it spreads—grows into other areas. David instead of resisting formulates a scheme to cover his tracks.

6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked concerning the welfare of Joab and the people and the state of the war. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and a present from the king was sent out after him. 9 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. 10 Now when they told David, saying, "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?" 11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, 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? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing." 12 Then David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now David called him, and he ate and drank before him, and he made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his bed with his lord's servants, but he did not go down to his house.

Now David practices deception, pretending to be interested in the battle, all the while he is plotting to use Uriah to cover David's adultery. Sends him home to his wife w/ a present (wine?) figuring **amorous** w/ his wife so pregnancy appear to be Uriah's child. But Uriah more honorable than David & sleeps w/ servants at door.

David ask him why did you not go down to your wife? David didn't consider the moral character of this man. It can happen that **one man's goodness can magnify another man's wickedness**. Uriah says it wouldn't be right for me to take pleasure w/ my wife while Israel's army is in tents--in the open field battling the enemy. God reveals in David the **latent power of sin w/in the heart of man**. **Heart is deceitful above all...** none righteous no not one... **Rom 2:1 Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.**

14 Now it came about in the morning that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die." 16 So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he put Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 And the men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David's servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died. 18 Then Joab sent and reported to David all the events of the war. 19 And he charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling all the events of the war to the king, 20 and if it happens that the king's wrath rises and he says to you, 'Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21 'Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman throw 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.'"

David sends Uriah away carrying his own death sentence. Joab must have thought Uriah had done some horrible thing deserving death or in some way egregiously offended the king. Joab later finds out it was a cover up when he learns the real reason.

David was a military tactician & knew it was a foolish strategy to go close to the wall to fight. But when he heard Uriah is dead David understood it was the very strategy Joab used to carry out David's request to get rid of Uriah. But not only Uriah died but other valiant soldiers (17) died unnecessarily because David seeks to cover his sin. ***He who seek to cover his sin shall not prosper...Pr 28:13***

22 So the messenger departed and came and reported to David all that Joab had sent him to tell. 23 And the messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate. 24 "Moreover, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead." 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; make your battle against the city stronger and overthrow it'; and so encourage him." 26 Now when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 When the time of mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Don't beat yourself up over it—this is simply a casualty of war...cover up successful for a time...what done in secret shouted **Luke 12:2-3** "***For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.***"

Did Bathsheba know? God knew! No matter how you want to justify sin, reasons for it, rationalize so it doesn't look so bad, God says it's evil...***the soul that sins shall surely die....Ps; 32*** Next ch 12 is about 2 years later Nathan confronts David thru parable **Ps 51**.