

Free  
Bible  
images



## David, Bathsheba and Nathan's parable

2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



In the spring, David sent his army under the command of Joab to lay siege to the Ammonite city of Rabbah. David chose to stay at home in Jerusalem.



One evening David walked around on the roof of the palace and saw a very beautiful woman washing. David sent someone to find out who she was. He was told she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite who was away fighting in David's army.



David sent messengers to get Bathsheba. When she arrived, he took as his own wife and then sent Bathsheba home.



A while later Bathsheba got a message to David saying, 'I am going to have a baby.'



David sent a message to Uriah the Hittite to come and see him. Uriah left the siege and returned to Jerusalem.



David asked Uriah how the siege was going then sent him home to his wife. He was hoping to cover up that he had taken Bathsheba as his own. But Uriah did not think it was fair that he should be at home while the other troops were living in tents. So he slept at the entrance of the palace with the other servants.

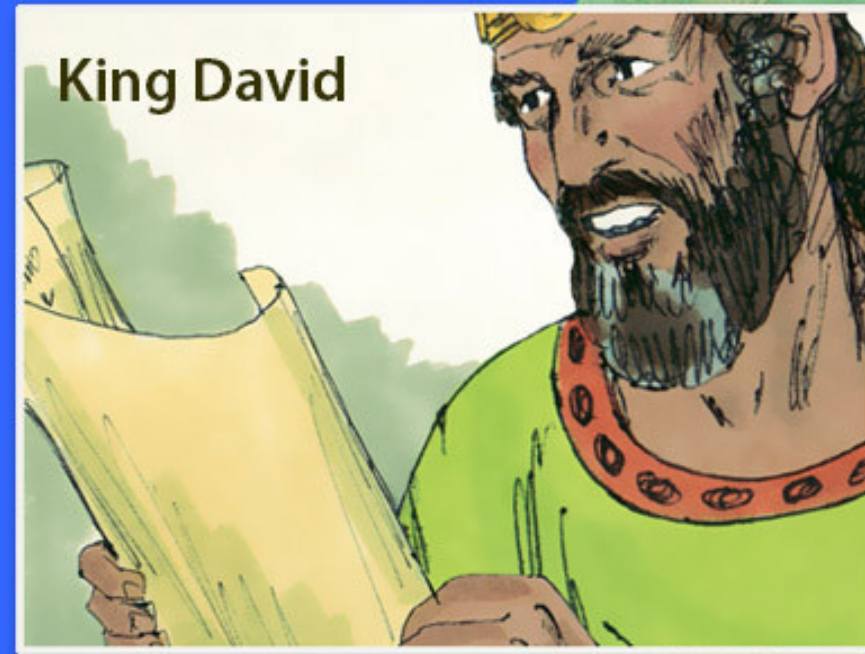


The next day David found out that Uriah had not spent the night with Bathsheba. So that day he got him drunk. But again Uriah did not return home but slept on a mat by the palace entrance. David's plan had failed. Uriah returned to the siege of Rabbah.



# ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF DAVID



Jerusalem

Lake Galilee

River Jordan

Kingdom of Ammon

Rabbath

Dead Sea

0 10 miles  
0 10 km

David wrote a letter to Joab with an order. 'Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so that he will be struck down and die.'



Joab obeyed the order. He put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders of the city would be. Several of Joab's soldiers were killed, one of them was Uriah, who was shot with arrows.



When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David brought her to his house and she became his wife and gave birth to his son. David's plan to steal Bathsheba had worked, but David's actions had greatly displeased the Lord.



The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David. Nathan told David the following story.



‘There were two men, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.



‘Now a traveller came to the rich man, but instead of taking one of his own sheep to prepare a meal for the traveller, he stole the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man. He killed the lamb and prepared it as a meal for his guest.’



David was furious. 'As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die!' he told Nathan. 'He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a bad thing and had no pity.'



Nathan then said to David,  
'You are that man! This is  
what the Lord says, "I  
anointed you king over  
Israel, and I delivered you  
from Saul. I gave your  
master's house and wives. I  
gave you all Israel and  
Judah. And I would have  
given you even more. Why  
did you disobey and do  
such evil?"

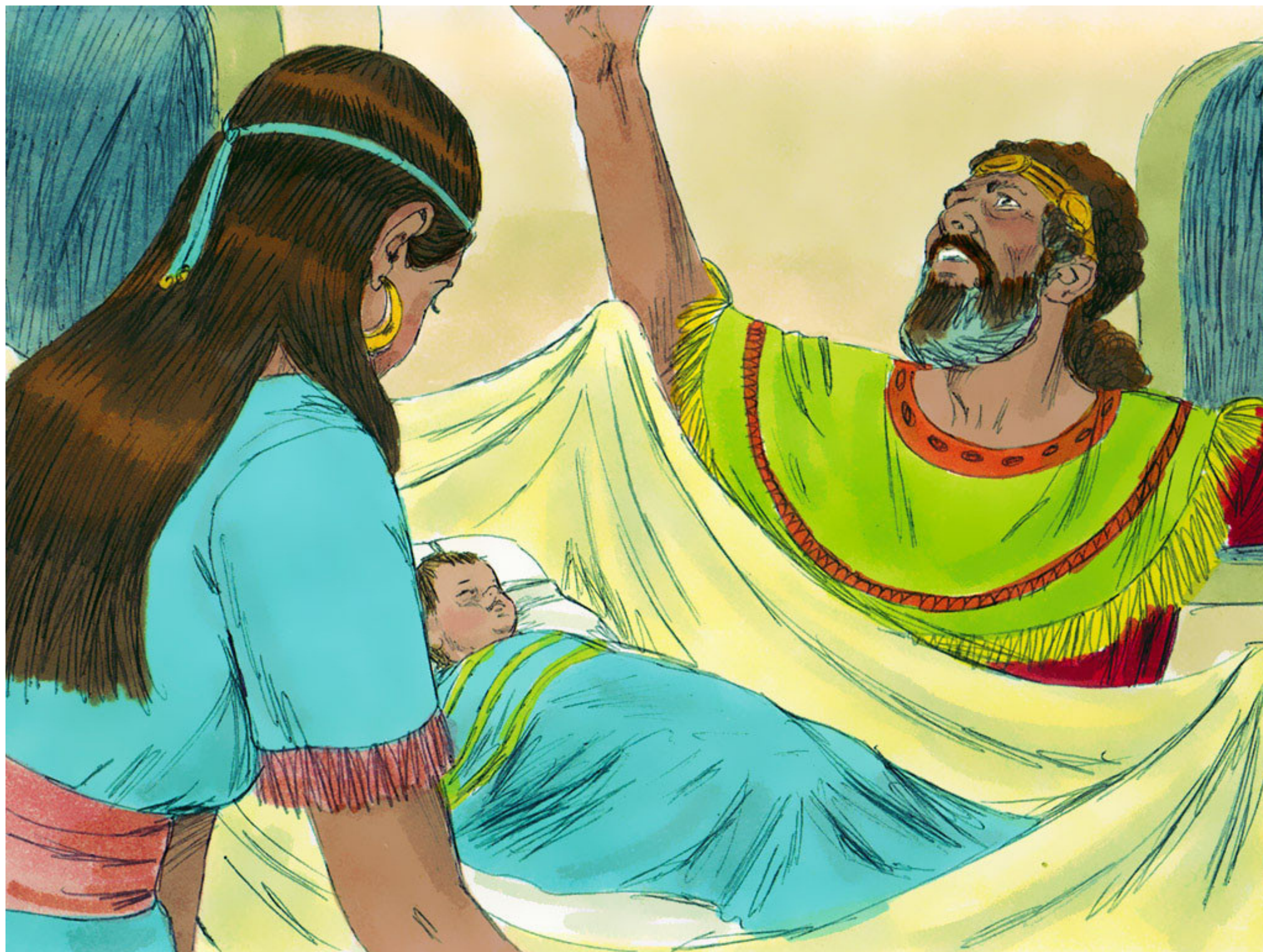




You murdered Uriah the Hittite and took his wife to be your own. From now on bloodshed shall never depart from your family.”



David cried, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan replied, 'The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.'



After Nathan had gone home, the child born to Bathsheba and David became ill. David pleaded with God to spare the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground.



Seven days later the child died. David was told the sad news. He stopped fasting and praying then he went in to see the child and comfort his wife.



Some time later David and Bathsheba had another baby boy whom they named Solomon. The Lord loved him and sent word through Nathan the prophet to bless him with the name Jedidiah meaning 'Friend of God'.

Solomon grew up to become the next King of Israel.

**Let's Talk About  
The Story...**

Q

A

**What was Bathsheba  
doing when David first  
saw her?**



**Why was it wrong for  
Bathsheba to be  
David's wife?**





**How did Uriah die?**



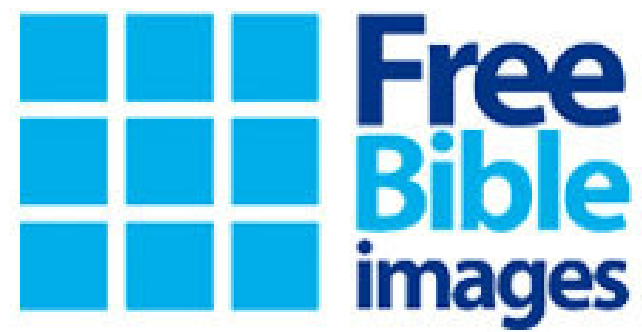
**What prophet told  
David a story about a  
little lamb?**



**What other sins did  
David commit trying to  
cover his sin?**



**After their first baby died,  
what was the name of  
David and Bathsheba's  
second baby?**



CONTRIBUTED BY  
**SWEET PUBLISHING**

These images are the copyright of Sweet Publishing.  
**Artist: Jim Padgett**

They are licensed to FreeBibleimages for free distribution under a  
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license.



[www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)