

“THOU ART THE MAN!”

By Keith Greer

Many times, when God dealt with His children through prophets, His messages were plain and powerful. Today, I would like to look at one such message: God's message to King David by the mouth of Nathan.

David was king of God's people. His armies were in battle and instead of being with them he tarried in Jerusalem. On the surface this seems like a small detail. Sadly, this caused David to be in the "wrong place at the wrong time".

"Then 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" (2 Samuel 11:3)

David should have marched back inside his own house. Instead he sent a messenger to find who she was. What did he find out? Bathsheba was the wife of one of his own soldiers, Uriah the Hittite. End of the story, she was a married woman, right? Wrong! David sent for her and committed adultery. Bathsheba conceived and sent word to David. Now what?

David must cover "his tracks." David is going to try to "fix" his sin to remain hidden. How does he plan to do so?

"And 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. "(2 Samuel 11:8) He sent Uriah home to be with his wife. Did it work?

"And 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'. "(2 Samuel 11:11) Considering Uriah's men were encamped in the open field, he would not allow himself to be comforted. David doesn't give up.

"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." (2 Samuel 11: 13) David tried to get him drunk! Foiled again!

"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." {2 Samuel 11:15} Finally, he is killed in battle. Sadly, this achieved the end David had sought, " ... thy servant Uriah is dead also." (2 Samuel 11:21)

After a period of mourning was past, David sent for her and made Bathsheba his wife. Did he get away with it?

God sent Nathan to David with a little story. Two men, one with large flocks, another with one little ewe lamb. A traveler came and the rich man took the poor man's only lamb to kill it to feed his guest instead of one of his many. What did David think should be done with that man?

"So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!'"(2 Samuel 12:5) This man was not fit to live!

"And Nathan said to David, 'Thou art the man!'"(2 Samuel 12:7) Nathan's word must have hit David right between the eyes! David had taken a man's only wife, when David had been given many. He committed adultery, lied and murdered. David confessed and God forgave him. Sin cannot be hidden from God! When we sin— "**thou art the man!** ***