

## Consequences of Sin – 2 Samuel 12:15-13:21

### Introduction:

The King has committed grave sins. First he lusts after another man's wife. Then he sleeps with her, committing adultery. Then to cover up this sin, he has the woman's husband killed in battle. It truly was an act of murder. Now that the husband is dead, the King takes the woman as his wife, and he is ready to raise the child they have conceived in the palace. King David was ready to act as if nothing bad had happened.

So God sends the prophet Nathan to confront the King. Nathan shows the King his crime through a story. The story infuriates the King, until Nathan says, "You are that man!" King David repents of his sin and God says that his life would be spared. However, there would be consequences for sinning against the Lord. Violence would be a plague his family, sexual sins would happen within his closest circle, and the child his new wife was carrying would die.

The story suddenly turns from a story of a godly man rising to power, to the story of a sinner facing the consequences of his sin. These are sad chapters as we see this truth fleshed out: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7)

### Death of the Child – 2 Samuel 12:15-25

1. In verse 15 we see the consequences of David's sin start to play out. What happens in this verse? Who caused this? Why?
2. Note how Bathsheba is addressed in verse 15. How does God identify her? Why not call her by her name?
3. How did David respond to the news that his son was sick (v. 16)? What was the reason he did these things?
4. Who tried to convince David to eat and take care of himself (v. 17)? Did David listen?

5. What happened on the seventh day of the child's sickness (v. 18)? Why did David's servants not want to tell David what happened?
6. How did David find out that his son had died (v. 19)?
7. Verse 20 describes what David did after his son died. What things did he do after the death?
8. Verse 21 indicates that the servants are puzzled by David's actions. What did they expect?
9. What is David's response to his servants (v. 22-23)? What important truth do we learn about the dead in verse 23?
10. For the first time in the biblical text Bathsheba is referred to as the wife of David in verse 24. How does David respond to Bathsheba at this time of loss?
11. Bathsheba once again bears a son. They name him Solomon, but what name does God give him through the prophet Nathan (v. 25)? What message does this give?

### **Battle Against Rabbah – 2 Samuel 12:26-31**

12. What was Joab doing while David was dealing with his family issues (v. 26)?
13. In those days when a king captured a city it was often renamed after the conqueror. In verses 27-28 Joab warns David that he is about to capture Rabbah. What should David do if he wants to save face as a king?
14. So what did David do according to verse 29?
15. In verse 30 we read about the great crown of the king. Why so much emphasis on the crown?
16. How does David deal with the Ammonites (v. 31)?
17. What is the picture we have at the end of chapter 12?

## **Amnon and Tamar – 2 Samuel 13:1-21**

18. Verse 1 of chapter 13 sets up the situation. What happened?
19. What is Amnon's situation according to verse 2?
20. In verse 3 we are introduced to Jonadab. Who is he and how is he described?
21. In verse 4 Amnon explains his problem. As he describes the situation, note how he describes the relationships. What were they in his eyes?
22. What is Jonadab's plan to entrap Tamar (v. 5)? Is it a plan to build a relationship or to get sex? Explain.
23. What request does Amnon make of his father, David (v. 6)?
24. David falls for the plan and sends for Tamar. She obediently prepares the food for her half brother. Tamar's safety starts to erode in verse 9. What does Amnon do?
25. In verse 10 things get worse for Tamar. What happens?
26. In verse 11 Amnon reveals his intentions. What does he want?
27. Tamar explains why this is a bad plan. She explains why it is bad for Israel, for herself and for Amnon. What does she say (vss. 12-13)?
28. Does Amnon listen to Tamar (v. 16)? What happened?
29. After Amnon got what he wanted, what was his thoughts towards Tamar (v. 15)? What is revealed about Amnon here?
30. What does Tamar mean in verse 16?
31. What does Amnon do to Tamar (vss. 17-18)?
32. What does Tamar do (v. 19)? What does this mean?
33. What does Absalom do when he hears what happened to his sister (v. 20)?
34. What does David do when he hears about what happened to his daughter (v.21)?

35. What is the response of Absalom to what Amnon did (v. 22)?

### **Conclusion:**

God forewarned David that there would be consequences within his own house for the sin he committed. First, David must face the loss of his son. The son that was conceived in sin was taken from David and Bathsheba. It is good to see that even here David submitted himself to the will of God. He fasted and prayed while the child lived, hoping God would spare him. But God's answer was "No" and the child died. David's response is encouraging, for he cleans up and heads to the place of worship. It appears that David is ready to submit to whatever God ordains for him.

God had also foretold that there would be sexual sins within the family unity. Our next story is about Amnon who lusts after his half-sister, rapes her and then despises her. Her brother takes her under his care, but her father David, despite getting angry, does nothing. This will lead to terrible consequences for his family.

Why did David not respond? He obviously cared, as he was furious at what happened. He knew what happened, so he could not plead ignorance. Could it be that guilt for what he had done paralyzed him? His son was following in his own footsteps, taking sex from someone he should not have simply because he had power. David may be leading the nation well, but not his family. What will be the consequences of his inability to discipline his own son? That story will soon unfold.

These two stories back to back may help us understand a little better why the child died. God our Heavenly Father had to discipline David for his sin, or things would only get worse. We see David move back towards God after his discipline. If God had not disciplined David, things may have gotten worse, as they are about to in Amnon's story. Proverbs 3:12 says, "For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."