

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

RLJ-1693

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PART 26: ADULTERY AND MURDER

LIFE IN ISRAEL

The economy in Israel at this time was based upon agriculture, a standing army and the manufacturing of swords, spears, bows, knives and chariots for military use. The army also needed uniforms, shoes and food, which was produced in local manufacturing plants.

There was also a building industry consisting of loggers, sawmills, builders, etc.
2 Chronicles 2:1-4; 16-18

There had been no iron, brass and steel weapon production in Israel during the time of the Judges but all that had changed by the time of King David. The people in the cities depended upon farmers to bring their cattle and produce, which in turn was processed by butchers, bakers and wineries. **1 Samuel 8:11-17**

When King David threw a party for the people in Jerusalem, there were 30,000 soldiers along with the local population. If we use a conservative estimate of 50,000 people, it would have amounted to the following:

- ❖ Each cake weighed half a pound = 25,000 pounds of bread
- ❖ One flagon of wine per person = 12,500 gallons of wine
- ❖ If each person received half a pound of meat = 25,000 pounds of meat

All this food was produced in Jerusalem, which indicates that David used the butchers, bakers and winemakers at his palace along with the food industry in Jerusalem.
2 Samuel 6:18-19

People had properties such as farms, vineyards, single family housing and the ownership was recorded with city governments. There were Biblical laws as well as civil laws, with judges and the supreme judge being the king. Israel also had a currency that was used to for purchases and services rendered. Taxes were collected and there were custom fees on items imported from other nations.

DURING THE STONE AGE

While Israel and the surrounding nations had this level of civilization, people in northern Europe were still living in the Stone Age.

David lived around 1,000 B.C. and wrote psalms which are preserved in the Bible.

Moses lived around 1526 B.C. He compiled the book of Genesis, wrote the story of his life with God, and the Exodus from Egypt.

Abraham was born around 2160 B.C. He preserved the history of mankind from the time of Adam and Eve and also recorded his life experiences.



When a person reads the records of the Bible from the time of Adam until King David, it is amazing the caliber of the writings is of such quality that people reading these accounts some 4,000 years later feels as though they were written by a highly educated person in the 21st century. The only thing that the Israelites lacked at this time was the knowledge of electricity, combustion engine, and all the technical gadgets we have today.

While northern Europe, the America's, parts of Africa and Asia were living in the Stone Age, the people of God were more advanced in their civilization. This type of discrepancy is still with us today as most nations live in a highly developed society, but there are still people groups living in the Stone Age.

ADULTERY

A year after David had defeated the Ammonites and the Syrian coalition, he took a break during the winter season and the soldiers got some rest. In the spring David ordered Joab to attack the nation of Ammon but he stayed at Jerusalem. It was customary that the king's palace be the tallest building in the city and David would have enjoyed getting onto his roof patio and gaze over the city.

It was on one such evening that he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath upon her rooftop patio. **2 Samuel 11:1-2**

The sight of this naked woman created a sexual lust in David, and since he already had a harem, he thought nothing about adding another woman to his life. **verse 3**

David's enquiry revealed that Bathsheba was married to Uriah the Hittite. The king knew he was one of the mightiest and most loyal soldiers he had since Uriah had been part of making him the king of Judah. Uriah was counted among the 30 best soldiers in David's army. **1 Chronicles 11:25; 41**

Despite Uriah's loyalty, David burned in his lust for Bathsheba. He didn't care that it was a sin to commit adultery and that it was forbidden to lust after another man's wife. **Exodus 20:14; 17**

David was like an animal looking to satisfy his burning lust. As the supreme ruler of Israel, David abused his power and had Bathsheba brought to his bedroom where he raped her and then sent her back home. **2 Samuel 11:4**

Bathsheba realized she was in trouble when she became pregnant because a wife that committed adultery in Israel was stoned to death. In her bewilderment, Bathsheba sent word to King David of her pregnancy. **verse 5**

MURDER

David figured that Bathsheba's body would not begin showing she was with child right away and so he wrote a letter to Joab and ordered Uriah sent home. The king assumed that Uriah would have sexual intercourse with his wife upon returning home, and then when he found out that Bathsheba was pregnant, he would naturally think it was his child.

David was cunning when he spoke with Uriah and asked how the war was going. This was a smokescreen and Uriah believed that he had been called back to give a report. **verses 6-7**

After flattering Uriah, David told him to go home and enjoy himself, and even sent food with his loyal soldier. **verse 8**

David ran into a problem when Uriah refused to go home because he did not feel it was right that he should have a great time with Bathsheba while his buddies were living in harsh conditions and facing death. **verses 9-11**

Uriah's great loyalty to David would lead to his death and David plotted how to get out of this predicament. As a result, David got Uriah drunk with the hope that he would forget his loyalty while intoxicated and go home to his wife. **verses 12-13**

David became desperate when this plan failed, and in order to cover his adultery, he crafted a letter to Joab, telling him to put Uriah in the front of a battle and then withdraw so that Uriah would be killed. Uriah was given the task of delivering the letter outlining his own murder to Joab. David's nephew was just as rotten and he agreed to the murder plot. **verses 14- 17**

Joab sent word back to King David in such a way that when Uriah's death became known in Israel, no one would conclude that he had been murdered. **verses 18-24**

David hypocritically sent a public message back to Joab stating he should not take the death of Uriah too hard as people always die in war and Uriah happened to be a casualty. **verse 25**

NO LOVE BETWEEN LIARS

General Joab went along with his uncle's lie and covered up for the king, but before David died, he turned on Joab and told Solomon that Joab would not to be allowed to die of old age. **1 Kings 2:1-6**

Solomon carried out his father's wishes and murdered Joab, who was slain holding onto the horns of the altar. Nothing was sacred to Solomon and he became a killer just like his father. **verses 28-34**

BATHSHEBA GRIEVES

The Bible does not reveal if Bathsheba truly loved her husband, but we do know that she mourned for Uriah for the standard thirty day period. This must have been a hard time for Bathsheba as she was a pregnant widow and would have a hard time making a living. **2 Samuel 11:26**

DAVID WEDS BATHSHEBA

After the days of mourning, David added Bathsheba to his harem and she eventually gave birth to David's son. **verse 27**

GOD WAS NOT PLEASED

The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to confront David with the story of a rich man with large flocks of sheep and a poor man with just one lamb. The rich man was entertaining

guests and did not want to kill one of his own animals, so he forced the poor man to give up his precious lamb. **2 Samuel 12:1-4**

David was incensed with the story and hypocritically demanded the death of the rich man. **verses 5-6**

At which point Nathan told the king point blank that he was that vile man because David had defiled Uriah and stolen his life. **verses 7-9**

The judgment from the Lord was severe; the sword would never leave David's family, his family would be cursed, and the king's own flesh and blood would attack him. **verses 10-12**

DAVID'S REPENTANCE

David finally realized that he had sinned greatly and knew that the only thing he could do was to repent and ask God to forgive him. Nathan told him that God had forgiven him and he would not be killed; however, the child conceived with Bathsheba would not live. **verses 13-14**

God struck the child as soon as Nathan left the palace; it became sick and died despite the fact that David prayed and fasted. **verses 15-23**

David stayed with Bathsheba in order to comfort her. Eventually she became pregnant and gave birth to a son named Solomon, who would become the future king of Israel. **verse 24**

DAVID'S PRAYER

When we read Psalm 51, we understand why God stated that David was a man after His own heart. In this prayer, David pleads for forgiveness and then declares that he wants to teach sinners to repent. God is not looking for sacrifices, but a broken and contrite heart. **Psalm 51:1-19**

SUMMARY

There is no way we can understand why God put up with David and his many blunders. David was more bad than good, but God saw something that will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We judge David by his actions but we also need to remember that we are sinful as well. **Romans 3:23**

God is mercifully still working with us. The prophet Isaiah summed it up and this is a truth that will stand as long as world exists. **Isaiah 55:6-11**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?