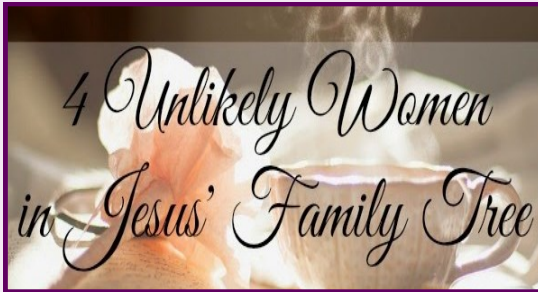


Bathsheba

“Women in the Genealogy of Christ”



“And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the Lord loved him.”
2 Samuel 12:24 KJV

It is very interesting that in the genealogy of Christ, Bathsheba is just referred to as the wife of Uriah. *“David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Uriah.”* Matthew 1:6 KJV As we study the life of Bathsheba, we know that Solomon was not her first son by David. David had other older sons by his other wives. This would cause another problem for Bathsheba later on. Why was Solomon in the lineage of Christ? We don't always know God's plan, and if we did, we would probably want to change it and really mess things up. David seemed to do his fair share of causing problems, but yet, he was chosen to do a lot of good by God. (In some versions, Uriah is spelled Urias)

David evidently had an eye for beautiful women, and it seemed to get him in

trouble many times. In some ways, he was very weak; in other ways, he was very strong.

One day he sent his men out to destroy the Ammonites, but he stayed behind. The houses had flat rooves and as David was on his roof, he noticed a very pretty young woman named bathing on her roof, David may have noticed her before, we don't know, but he sent his guards to have her come to his palace. Her name was Bathsheba. They slept together and she conceived. However, Bathsheba had a husband. His name was Uriah. Uriah held a top position in David's army. Now David had a problem. What was he going to do? Bathsheba was pregnant by him, and Uriah was one of his top men. David called Uriah home and told him to take some time off and go home and spend some time with his wife. Sounds innocent enough! It is no wonder that manyh movies have been made based on the Bible. Every sin and good deed is in the Bible somewhere. We could ask “why” but God knows so much more than we do, and the more we study the Bible the more we realize how people today are just like those in the Bible. It may be a different times, but we are all human and history does repeat itself over and over.

David had to do some fast thinking. He decided that he could always have people think that she was pregnant by Uriah. That would be very natural,

Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving
one another, as God in
Christ forgave you.

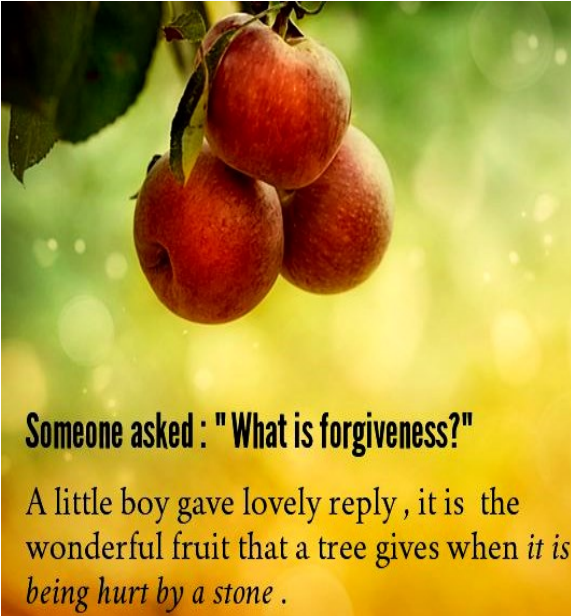
- Ephesians 4:32 ESV

especially it Uriah had just been home for the battlefield for a short visit. However, many people had seen Bathsheba going into the palace. It probably wasn't a secret, and Uriah may have known. We are not told that. We are told that Uriah decided not to go home to his wife as David told him. Instead, he realized he was still in the service of his king and he decided to stay with the soldiers and sleep with their camp. David called him in and asked him why he had not gone home. Uriah told him that he realized his loyalty to the king. So David needed a second plan.

David instructed the soldiers to storm the walls of a city. Then he instructed the soldiers to pull back at the last minute and leave Uriah unprotected. Uriah was killed by the enemy. At first David seemed to be angry, but then he just accepted the fact that war kills and told them to go ahead and make sure that the city was completely destroyed.

Some authorities feel that many people knew about the clandestine relationship between David and Bathsheba. The guards would have seen her

going in. And the soldiers had been told to allow him to die at the battle front and not support him.



The Bible tells us that Bathsheba mourned. Did she mourn the death of her husband, or the fact that she was caught up in the middle of lies? We don't know. We do know that now Bathsheba was free to marry David and bear him a son. However, the son that was born of their affair died after just a few days and David and Bathsheba mourned again.

They had another son, Solomon. Eventually Solomon became king, but not before Bathsheba did some more conniving. Bathsheba was in a dangerous situation, but she didn't give up easily. She had a lot of power with the advisors and the mercenary soldiers. So she talked with them and then went

to David and told him that his son, Adonijah, was already taking control of the throne and the only son that was remaining loyal to him was Solomon. After a *coup d'etat*, Solomon ends up King, and now Bathsheba as the Queen Mother was in the most powerful position she could possibly hold.

Solomon is the one mentioned in 2 Samuel 12:24. Solomon was considered by many to be the wisest man in Old Testament history, but some of his actions cause us to wonder also. Yet, he is in the ancestry of Christ.

David, of all people, should have known that he could not hide anything from God, but evidently he thought he could get away with it. And Bathsheba? We are so human!



Prayer: Thank you Lord for this time of year when we take special note of the birth of Jesus Christ. In this time of Christmas, may we show by our actions that we know You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Help us to follow Your plan to the best of our ability. Help us to show to others that we know You are the Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. who forgives our sins today and always. Amen

1. Do you think there is a reason why Matthew lists Bathsheba as "wife of Uriah" instead of calling her by name?
2. Why did God choose people like David and Bathsheba to be in the lineage of Christ?
3. David seemed to be a split personality in many ways. Are we ever like David?
4. Was David the guilty party or was Bathsheba? This has been debated for many years, particularly in recent years by "women libbers."
5. List some of the positive acts of David, and then list some positive things you have done as you think about how your life reflects the love of God.

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For more on Bathsheba read 2 Samuel, chapters 11 and 12, and 1 Kings, chapters 1 and 2 and Matthew 1:6, the genealogy.