

Nathan the Prophet Confronts David (c. 996 BC)

2 Samuel 12:1–15a

1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said,

“There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.

2 “The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.

3 “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb

Which he bought and nourished;

And it grew up together with him and his children.

It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom,

And was like a daughter to him.

4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man,

And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd,

To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him;

Rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

5 Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.

6 He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.”

7 Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.

8 I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!

9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

10 Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

11 Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.

12 Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’”

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

14 However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.”

15a So Nathan went to his house.

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (c. 996 BC)

Psalm 51

For the choir director.

A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;

According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity

And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,

And my sin is ever before me.

- 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge. [[Rom 3:4](#)]
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.
- 7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness,
Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide Your face from my sins
And blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.
- 13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners will be converted to You.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;
Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
That my mouth may declare Your praise.
- 16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
- 18 By Your favor do good to Zion;
Build the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices,
In burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Blessed Are the Forgiven (c. 996 BC)

Psalm 32

A Psalm of David. A Maskil.

- 1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered! [[Rom 4:7](#)]
- 2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no deceit!
- 3 When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. *Selah*.
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to You,

- And my iniquity I did not hide;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD";
And You forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*.
- 6 Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found;
Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.
- 7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance. *Selah*.
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
- 9 Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding,
Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check,
Otherwise they will not come near to you.
- 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.
- 11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;
And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

The Death of David and Bathsheba's First Son (c. 996 BC)

2 Samuel 12:15b–24a

- 15b Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was *very* sick.
- 16 David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.
- 17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them.
- 18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was *still* alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do *himself* harm!"
- 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."
- 20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.
- 21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food."
- 22 He said, "While the child was *still* alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'
- 23 But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."
- 24a Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba,