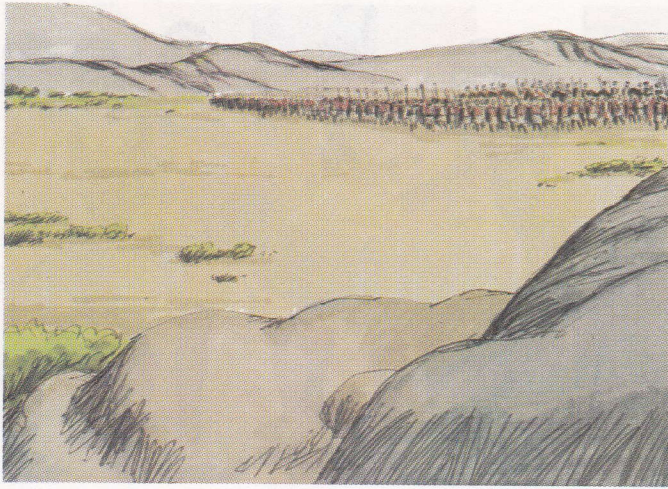


David and Bathsheba



1 During the spring one year, King David sent Joab and the Israelite army off to fight against the Ammonites at Rabbah. But David himself stayed in Jerusalem.



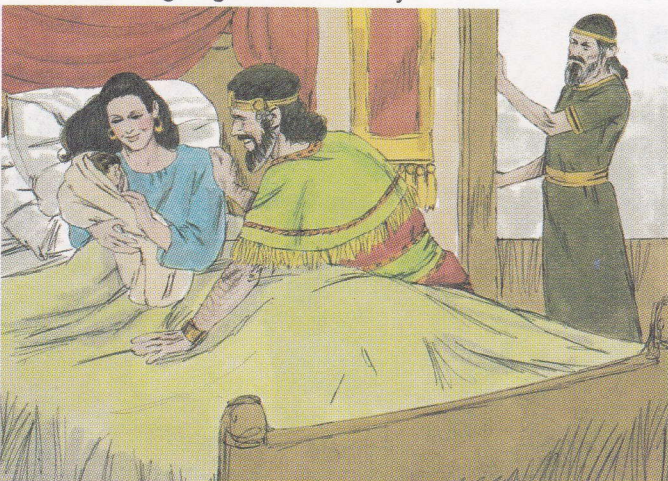
2 One day after waking from his afternoon nap, David went up to the palace roof to take a walk. From the roof he saw a very beautiful woman bathing. She was Bathsheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite.



3 At that time Uriah was away fighting at Rabbah. David had Bathsheba brought to the palace as if she were his wife. Later Bathsheba sent word to David that she was going to have a baby.



4 At first David tried to get Uriah to go home so that Uriah would think the baby was his own. When that didn't work, David had Uriah put in a dangerous position during a battle, and he was killed.



5 After Uriah's death, David made Bathsheba his wife. In a few months, she gave birth to a baby boy. But the Lord was not pleased with David. He sent Nathan the prophet to tell the king this story:



6 "A rich man and a poor man lived in the same town. The rich man had many sheep, but the poor man had only one little lamb. The poor man loved it like one of his own children."



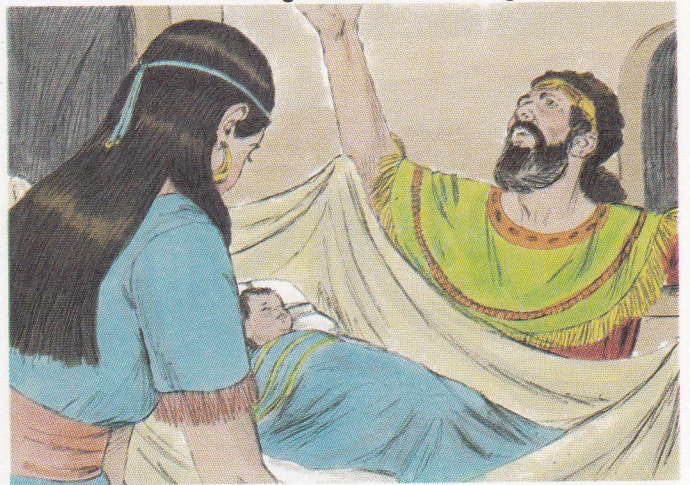
7 “Then one day a visitor came to see the rich man. The rich man didn’t want to kill one of his own sheep to feed his guest. So he took the poor man’s pet lamb and cooked it for his visitor to eat.”



8 David became angry. “That man ought to die!” he said. Nathan replied, “You are that man! The Lord says, ‘I have done so much for you. Why have you done this evil — killing Uriah and taking his wife?’”



9 Then David was sorry for his wrong. “I have sinned,” he cried. Nathan said, “The Lord forgives you, and you will not die. But because you have shown such contempt for the Lord, your child will die.”



10 The baby, indeed, became very sick. David prayed that his child would get well. David would not eat anything, and he lay on the floor all night long. No one could comfort him.



11 After about a week, David’s little son died. The servants were afraid to tell David. When they did, he washed himself and went to worship the Lord. Then he went home and comforted Bathsheba.



12 Later David and Bathsheba had another baby, also a boy. David named him Solomon. The Lord loved Solomon very much. Solomon would grow up to be a very wise and wealthy man.