

BATHSHEBA— FAMOUS OR INFAMOUS?

AMAZING GRACE IN THE WORST OF SITUATIONS

ser5048 Women Who Made a Difference, Pt 5

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I. (HOOK & BOOK) MEET BATHSHEBA

A. Unknown to most, Bathsheba's *heritage* is rich and deep in lineage and character.

Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, was one of King David's mighty men, which makes his crime all that more heinous. **2 Samuel 23:8-39** lists David's mighty men, and concludes with,

"³⁹and Uriah the Hittite. There were thirty-seven in all."

Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam, also one of the king's mighty men. Her grandfather was Ahithophel, one of King David's chief advisors.

The Bible says of Ahithophel,

Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel's advice.

2 Samuel 16:23

I think you're getting the point. Bathsheba was not a commoner. She came from good stock: from a bloodline that people would count as nobility.

NOTE: One would assume that David thought highly of and cared about Uriah, Eliam, Ahithophel his counselor, and Bathsheba—they were all family.

B. Hollywood's take.



Hollywood and printed material are not absent of this story. There was a time when Hollywood could not produce for public consumption what is shown on today's screen, rated R or NC-17. So, they had to find a way to address such subjects, and what better way than to use the Bible? Samson & Delilah and David & Bathsheba were suitable topics. Furthermore, Hollywood picked the male and

female with the greatest ticket attractions – Gregory Peck and Susan Hayward ([show photo](#)). It was made in 1951 with director, Henry King. It was a box office smash, much like Cecil B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments" (1956).

More recently the History Channel produced a ten-part Bible Series released March 3rd, 2013. The first episode was seen by 13.1 million people, the largest

cable television audience in 2013. Of course, two of the stories were Samson & Delilah and David & Bathsheba.

As born-again, fundamental Christians, we read a book or watch a movie from the perspective of Biblical accuracy. Although Hollywood does not want to stray too far—if it does it will lose its appeal to the Christian market—they want to make sure the product sizzles.

With that said, much like *The Chosen*, some of the director's perspective is rather eye-opening. It's not always accurate, but it is insightful.

Sometimes we are introduced to something we never saw previously in the narrative because our learning hid it from us. **Here's an example:**

(show video/*The Bible Series/Bathsheba*
<https://youtu.be/W5fElkgijE8> (2:13))

II. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE VIDEO

- A. Did David and Bathsheba know one another before he called her to his palace?**
- B. Did the culture forbid Bathsheba to say no?**
- C. Was Bathsheba present when David danced before the LORD with all his might?**

D. If Bathsheba was an accomplice (maybe that's too strong a word) and put up little to no resistance, why would God give her power beyond that of any other woman in the King's palace, and place her in the lineage of the Christ?

E. What are the lessons we can learn from this Biblical narrative?

Let us pray!

III. (LOOK) ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS A-D.

A. Did David and Bathsheba know one another before he called her to his palace?

1. All indications point to the reality that Bathsheba knew the king and the king knew Bathsheba. Now, to what extent we don't know. What we do know is that Bathsheba's husband and father-in-law were both a part of David's "Navy Seals"—the best in his military. Remember, David was a man of war, a fighter. I doubt these thirty-seven (37) were merely acquaintances.

2. For David to see her from his roof meant Uriah's house was not obscure from David's view.

POINT MADE: Isn't that the way of sin? It's never really obscure. It's always there. We are simply naïve to it...at first. But little by little it weasels its way into our hearts.

It plays upon our emotions. It cries out “look at me!” and before we know it, it has taken our heart and actions captive.

I suspect we’ve all been tripped up by it one way or another, at one time or another.

ILLUSTRATION: I’m thinking of a person I considered a friend. He fought on the front lines for things we held dear as ministers of the GOSPEL. But he started hob-knobbing with persuasive people of money and power who convinced him that what he had fought for all of his life was wrong. Sadly, the day came when he believed them.

3. Yes, I believe circumstances would indicate that David and Bathsheba knew one another before he called her to his palace.

B. Did the culture forbid Bathsheba to say no?

1. The answer is yes and no.

Yes, in that the King had absolute power.

No, in that Bathsheba could have resisted. Now, could it have cost her her life? Possibly.

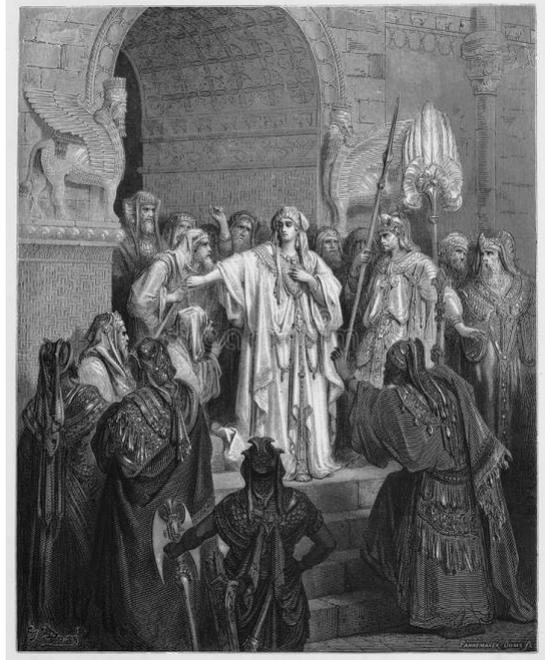
NOTE: Did not this whole sordid affair cost her husband his life?

NOTE 2: Here’s another thought. How do we not know that Ahithophel sided with Absalom because of what David did to his granddaughter? Maybe he thought, “Here’s my opportunity to make right David’s wrong.” But hear me! It’s not our job to raise our hand against God’s

anointed...ever. That's one place we cannot play God without paying a severe price.

David was far from perfect, as we well know, but he knew not to touch God's anointed; and he didn't.

2. Recall the story of Queen Vashti? King Ahasuerus, king of Persia, and his cabinet had been drinking for a few days. The King sent for his wife, the queen, wanting to show off her beauty. But she refused to be an object of the king's whim and would not do as requested. ([show photo](#))



NOTE: Although the Bible does not tell us the reasons why Queen Vashti refused, the rabbis speculate that she was to appear “au-natural.”

Whatever the case, “She said no to the king and yes to her dignity,”* the result of which was banishment from the Kingdom. *Leesa Renee Hall

3. Here is the bottom line. We can always say no to sin no matter what the price may be. (It doesn't appear that Bathsheba was willing to give up her life...but who am I to judge?)

C. Was Bathsheba present when David danced before the LORD with all his might?

She could have been. However, my spiritual gut would say no because of the pattern of Scripture.

1. Before Noah was sodomized by his grandson, Canaan is introduced to us (*Genesis 9:18*).

2. Before Dinah is raped by Shechem, Dinah is introduced to us as the daughter of Jacob (*Genesis 30:21*); she is not raped till *Genesis 34*.

NOTE: Jacob had other daughters besides Dinah.

D. If Bathsheba was an accomplice, why would God give her power beyond that of any other woman in the King's palace and place her in the lineage of the Christ?

Let's explore the story giving Bathsheba the benefit of the doubt.

1. Most likely David knew Uriah and Bathsheba.

2. Recall her husband is away at war.

3. Maybe she thought King David wanted to speak to her about her husband.

Was he injured? Was he killed in battle?

4. Maybe the king had news about her father, Eliah (one of David's mighty men).

5. Maybe David wanted to talk to her about her grandfather, Ahithophel?

Whatever the case, it really didn't matter. David's thoughts were wicked.

E. Other questions:

1. Why was Bathsheba bathing on the roof top?

We don't know. Some suggest that she knew the king could see her, but that's speculation. What we do know is that ...

2. She was purifying herself from her "uncleanness."

2 Samuel 11:4 tells us,

⁴ Then David sent messengers to *get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

The NKJV words it, Then David sent messengers, and **took** her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, ... *(**Strong's 3947**) take away, seize, take captive, take as to marry, ...

3. This was a one night, or day, sexual encounter, and she, like Tamar, got pregnant.

Verse 4 reads,

⁴ ... and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

NOTE: It would seem that David had no intention of anything other than a one-night stand. (**continue reading**)

⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent word and told David, and said, “I *am* with child.

NOTE! The affair wasn't of God, but the pregnancy was.

IV. (**TOOK-1**) THE PRICE OF SIN FOR BATHSHEBA

(This message is not about David—his price was even greater.)

A. Bathsheba suffers the loss of her husband.

1. The Bible doesn't tell us if she knew David had her husband killed, but it's hard to believe that such a hideous act could have been hidden from her.
2. She finds herself a pregnant widow.
3. What will happen to her?
Will the king kill her too?
4. In accordance with **2 Samuel 11:27**, David takes her to wife, seeking to cover his, possibly their, sin.
5. But what may have been hidden from the public at the time wasn't hidden from God—and ...

B. Bathsheba suffers the loss of her newborn baby.

2 Samuel 12: 13-14

And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *who is* born to you shall surely die.”

V. (TOOK-2) AMAZING GRACE IN THE WORST OF SITUATIONS

A. Here’s the rest of the narrative.

1. After the loss of their child, David comforts Bathsheba.

She conceives and gives birth to a son God names Jedidiah, which means “*beloved by the LORD.*” His parents however, call him Solomon. Today, we would call Solomon a “rainbow baby.”*

*A *rainbow baby* is a baby that is born after a miscarriage, stillbirth, or loss of an infant.

2. There is something fascinating about the Hebrew word for “comforted” ([Strong’s 5162](#)), it means to pity, be sorry, to repent, and to avenge.

3. As we know, Solomon is the son who takes over the throne of David and is named in the lineage of Messiah.

He is one of David's 19 living sons.

4. Why does God choose Solomon?

Why not one of David's other sons? Why not one from one of his ten wives and ten concubines? Here's what we read in *Matthew 1:6*

"...David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife"

B. Why Bathsheba? (She is one of five women named in the genealogy of Jesus.)

1. Does God feel sorry for her?

2. Is there something about her that God likes?

3. Why does God favor her son and not the son of one of David's other wives?

NOTE: Is there something about Bathsheba we're missing? We know she's a typical mom who fights for Solomon's place on the throne when some of David's other wives were fighting for their sons.

4. We know that man looks at the exterior of a person—maybe even one's actions, but God sees the heart.

In other words, God judges the MOTIVE of our actions, and that's something none of us are qualified to do. Only God.

5. Or could it be that God simply wanted to demonstrate GRACE so that we, in some

small measure, could understand the breathless nature of God's love, compassion, and forgiveness?

Because just like Bathsheba was unworthy of God's redemptive plan, so are we.

C. Could God be asking you to offer the same grace to someone unworthy of your forgiveness?

V. INVITATION

In closing, I must propose the question: "Have you received and entered into God's grace?"

Here's how?

Admit— your sins have separated you from God. (*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*); **Believe** – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (*Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22*); **Commit** – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (*Isa 53:5; Col 1:22*); **Do it today!** (*Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2*).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!