

June 22–28: 2 Samuel 11–12; 1 Kings 3; 6–9; 11 “Hear Thou in Heaven Their Prayer”

David’s Fall

2Sam 11:2-4

2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

3 And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

What does this passage teach us about the progression of sin and how one sin can lead to another?

(the woman was very beautiful to look upon
David... inquired after the woman
David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him
he lay with her)

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“We must be cautious of seemingly small thoughts and actions that can lead to large consequences... a few unclean thoughts, or a little pornography; one experiment with drugs; a few lies, a little fraud; or a feeling of hate can lead us into the camp of the adversary. Giving just an inch here and there can put us close enough to the line that one slip will take us right over it....

“The Church has only one acceptable standard of sexual morality, and that is complete chastity for both sexes. I urge you to avoid situations that permit physical feelings to take control of behavior.” (“The Lord’s Side”, Ensign, March 1993)

D&C 42:23

And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife - He found out who she was, that she was married, and he sent for her anyway.

D&C 42:24-25

24) Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out.

25) But he that has committed adultery and repents with all his heart, and forsaketh it, and doeth it no more, thou shalt forgive;

This was a tragedy, but if David had repented, he still could have received full

forgiveness. But instead of repenting, he multiplied his sins.

2Sam 11:5-11

5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

6 And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

10 And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

How did David's efforts to conceal his sin lead him further into wrongdoing?

-He tries to manipulate Uriah into supporting his lie.

It states that Uriah was a Hittite, which means he was a convert.

What does Uriah's response reveal about his loyalty, integrity, and faithfulness to Israel and the Lord?

(verse 11)

David tried again to manipulate Uriah by getting him drunk, but Uriah still would not go to his wife. So David arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle.

2Sam 11:14-17

14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

How does David's attempt to conceal his sin lead to an escalation that results in murder?

(David wrote a letter to Joab
Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him,
that he may be smitten, and die)

Orson Pratt

“[David] not only committed adultery by thus taking the wife of another, but by his order her lawful husband was placed in front of the battle that he might be destroyed, and he was destroyed, hence, though he himself did not thrust a dagger to his heart, he became a murderer in the sight of heaven by having this man placed where his blood would be shed. After all his goodness, and after all the light and knowledge which God had given to this man, he committed these two great crimes.” (JD, 15:312)

This deception hid his sins from others, but he could not hide his sins from God.

2Sam 12:1-13

1 And the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

7 ¶ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

JST 2Sam 12:13) ... And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath not put away thy sin...

How does Nathan's parable help David recognize his sin?

(David's anger was greatly kindled against the man)

JD 15:312, Orson Pratt

Nathan the Prophet was sent to reprove him for them, and he did so by means of a parable. He told David, the king, that a certain poor man had but one ewe lamb, and his rich neighbor... went to this poor man's fold and took the only sheep he had and dressed it in order to make a sumptuous feast for the stranger. This kindled David's wrath, for though he had transgressed, the principle of justice was not extinct in his bosom, and he said, 'He who hath done this thing shall surely die.' Nathan said, 'Thou art the man.'"

What does this passage teach us about how the Lord was prepared to bless David if he remained faithful?

(verses 8-9)

What are the consequences of committing the sin of murder?

D&C 42:18

Thou shalt not kill; and he that kills shall not have forgiveness in this world, nor in the world to come.

Orson Pratt

“Did [David] cry unto the Lord? He did. Was he sorely troubled? He was, and he was perhaps as repentant as any one could be; but the decree had gone forth, and hence that man had to endure the penalty of his crime.... It seems that after all, though David's repentance could not wipe away his sin, yet he had a hope, and he looked forward to the time when he would be liberated from hell; when that time arrived he would come forth and receive some kind of a glory, how much I do not know, for it is not revealed” (JD 5:317)

We read about David's plea for repentance in the Book of Psalms.

Psalm 51:7-12

7 Purge 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; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Note that in his plea for repentance, David asks the Lord to “create in

me a clean heart,” which only the Lord can do.

Charles A. Callis

“Pray with David, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.' When a man repents of his sins and brings forth fruits meet for repentance, is he not another man? Does not God give him another heart, a new heart?... my brethren and sisters, if the people will put all manner of evil beneath their feet; if they will turn wholly to God: if they will set their faces as flint against those evils which are vexing mankind, God will give them new hearts, and by obeying the gospel, they will become better and stronger.” (CR, April 1917)

King Solomon

Solomon was the third and last king of a united Israel. Because of David's conquests, he reigned in relative peace and was able to build the temple and further develop Israel as a nation.

Solomon's acknowledges his weakness before the Lord

1King 3:5-8

5 ¶ In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

JST 1King 3:7-8]

7 And now, O LORD, my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David, my father, over thy people.

8 And I know not how to lead them, to go out or come in before them; and I, thy servant, am as a little child in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

Why did Solomon feel inadequate to lead Israel?

(I know not how to lead them

I, thy servant, am as a little child in the midst of thy people)

Let's read how the Lord blessed him and made his weakness a strength.

1King 3:9-14

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?
10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.
11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;
12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.
13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.
14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

JST 1King 9:14

14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, then I will lengthen thy days, and thou shalt not walk in unrighteousness as did thy father David.

What blessings did the Lord give Solomon because of his righteous desires?

(I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart
that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour
if thou wilt walk in my ways... I will lengthen thy days)

Howard W. Hunter

"If the Lord was pleased because of that which Solomon had asked of him, surely he would be pleased with each of us if we had the desire to acquire an understanding heart....

"We need more understanding in our relationships with one another, in business and in industry, between management and labor, between government and the governed. We need understanding in that most important of all social units the family, understanding between children and parents and between husband and wife. Marriage would bring happiness, and divorce would be unknown if there were understanding hearts. Hatred tears down but understanding builds up.

"Our prayer could well be as was Solomon's, 'Lord, give me an understanding heart.'" (CR, April 1962)

1King 4:29-34

29 ¶ And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol,

and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.
32 And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.
33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.
34 And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

Let's read the story most associated with Solomon's wisdom.

1 King 3:16-28

16 ¶ Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.

23 Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.

24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

26 Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

In what way did this event increase Israel's confidence in King Solomon?

(they saw that the wisdom of God was in him)

Solomon's Temple

David received instructions from the Lord on building the temple, but he was not allowed to build it.

1Chron 28:2-3

2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

Why did the Lord not allow David to fulfill his righteous desire to build the temple?

(an house of rest for the ark of the covenant
because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood)

David passed on the pattern and instructions for building the temple to Solomon.

1Chron 28:10-14,19

10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

11 ¶ Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat.

12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

13 Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD.

14 He gave of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service:

19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

How did David receive the instructions for building the temple?

(the pattern of all that he had by the spirit
the LORD made me understand... all the works of this pattern)

1Chron 28:20-21

20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with

thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

What promises did David share with Solomon as he prepared to build the temple?

(God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work)

James E. Talmage

"With the great wealth accumulated by his kingly father and specifically reserved for the building of the temple, Solomon was able to put the known world under tribute, and to enlist the cooperation of nations in his undertaking.

"The temple workmen numbered scores of thousands, and every department was in charge of master craftsmen. To serve on the great structure in any capacity was an honor; and labor acquired a dignity never before recognized. Masonry became a profession, and the graded orders therein established have endured until this day. The erection of the Temple of Solomon was an epoch-making event, not alone in the history of Israel, but in that of the world." (The House of the Lord, pg. 5-6)

The Lord promised Solomon that he could build the temple if he remained obedient.

1King 6:11-13

11 ¶ And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,
12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:
13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

What does this passage, along with David's example, teach about what the Lord requires of His leaders in order for them to build His temples?

(if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them)

Let's read about one particular part of this temple.

1King 7:23-25

23 ¶ And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.
24 And under the brim of it round about there were knops compassing it, ten in a

cubit, compassing the sea round about: the knops were cast in two rows, when it was cast.

25 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward.

What similarities do you see between the molten sea in Solomon's temple and temple ordinances performed today?

- Size: Height: \approx 7.5 feet, Circumference: \approx 45 feet;
- Capacity \approx 15,000 gallons

Bruce R. McConkie

"This brazen sea was used for performing baptisms for the living....

"In describing the molten sea the Old Testament record says, 'The sea was for the priests to wash in' (2Chron 4:2-6). This is tantamount to saying that the priests performed baptisms in it.

"In this temple building dispensation the Brethren have been led by the spirit of inspiration to pattern the baptismal fonts placed in temples after the one in Solomon's Temple." (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 103-4)

In 1 Kings chapter 8, we read about the dedication of the temple.

First, the priests and Levites brought the holy vessels and the Ark of the Covenant from the tabernacle and placed them in their proper places in the temple.

James E. Talmage

"When the House of the Lord was completed, elaborate preparations were made for its dedication. First came the installation of the Ark of the Covenant and its appurtenances, the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the holy vessels. With great solemnity and to the accompaniment of ceremonial sacrifice, the Ark was brought by the priests and placed within the Holy of Holies beneath the wings of the cherubim." (The House of the Lord, pg. 40)

After the items from the tabernacle were put in place, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

1King 8:10-11

10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Before Solomon gave the dedicatory prayer, a cloud of glory filled the house of God, indicating the very presence of God. That this glory should

accompany the dedication exercises is interesting for Latter-day Saints, since a similar glory attended the dedication of the Kirtland Temple.... The special events attending the dedication of both temples are signs of the Lord's divine acceptance of the houses built in His name to His honor. (Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual, Old Testament, 2018)

In the dedicatory prayer, Solomon asked the Lord to bless and forgive the Israelites.

James E. Talmage

“Then Solomon addressed the assembled multitude, reciting the circumstances under which the building of the Temple had been conceived by his father David and executed by himself, and proclaiming the mercy and goodness of Israel's God. Standing before the altar of the Lord, in the court of the Temple, the king spread forth his hands toward heaven, and offered the dedicatory prayer. The king then blessed the people, saying ‘Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us’ (1king 8:56-57).” (The House of the Lord, pg. 41)

Solomon Turns From the Lord

When the Lord blesses the righteous, they prosper. This prosperity often leads to pride and causes people to turn away from the Lord. As Solomon began to prosper, he took pride in his wealth. He began to build up his kingdom for his own glory. He undertook many building projects, the most elaborate of which was his own palace.

1King 10:14-15,18-23

14 ¶ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,
15 Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country.

18 ¶ Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.

19 The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

20 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

21 ¶ And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

22 For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

23 So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.

Note: 1 talent \approx 75 pounds, So: 666 talents is \approx 50,000 pounds of gold (per year)

What sacrifices do you think the people were required to make to support Solomon's wealth and lavish projects?

Though Solomon's remarkable building projects became world famous, they created serious problems in his own kingdom. He taxed the people heavily and used forced labor to complete his massive projects. The people began to complain, and a deep resentment, especially in the northern tribes, began to fester....

Crops [and flocks] would have to turn over to the king's officers when collection time came around every 12 months. Likewise,... sons were forced to serve one month of every three in the king's labor force....

For the first time in Israel's history, there began to be a distinct difference between 'rich' and 'poor.' The king and his household were rich; the common people were poor. In between were the salaried civil servants. (Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual, Old Testament, 2018)

Samuel prophesied that these problems would come upon the people if they chose to be governed by a king.

1Sam 8:11-18

11) And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12) And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13) And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14) And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15) And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16) And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17) He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18) And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

His worldly desires were not limited to wealth. Note that in verse 1, the word "strange" means foreign.

1King 11:1-4

1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;
2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.
3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart
4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

How did Solomon's choices turn his heart away from the Lord?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“In your reading of the Old Testament you will also find that Solomon was blessed and the Lord appeared to him and gave him visions and great blessings when he had plural wives, but later in his life, he took wives that the Lord did not give him.” (Answers to Gospel Questions, 4:214)

D&C 132:38

38 David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, as also many others of my servants, from the beginning of creation until this time; and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me.