

## David - Life Lessons

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The Bathsheba/Uriah incident is **the most detailed “life lesson” documented in the Bible**. David was in Jerusalem during a war and fell into a trap of Satan (2Sm11:1). David quickly and deeply repented when confronted by his sin (Ps51:1-2), and he learned the “life lesson” (Ps19:12-13), but he suffered untold misery in doing so.

**Why do We Have to Suffer?** Even Jesus “learned” from “life lessons” (Hb5:7-8). Satan attacks us at our weakest point (Mt4:8-9). Our “trials” have a definite purpose (Jm1:2-4). God does NOT set us up, but he will NOT remove all trials, we often must go through them to learn (Jm1:12-14). Satan is a master at manipulating circumstances to get us into situations which can bring on trials (1Pt5:8b-9a, Jm4:7b-8a).

### **Key Events in David's Life:**

Learned to seek God as a shepherd in his youth (1 Samuel 16:11, 17:34-35)  
Demonstrated his desire to serve God by killing Goliath (1 Samuel 17:36-37)  
Privately anointed King and received the Holy Spirit (1 Samuel 16:1, 10-13)  
Learned to be a king in Saul's service (1 Samuel 17:55-58, 18:2, 16:14-23)  
Learned leadership fleeing from Saul (1 Samuel 22:1-4, 23:15-18)

Always quick to repent (Nabal/Abigail incident) (1 Samuel 25:2-42)  
Made serious mistakes: Committing himself and men as mercenaries to Achish (1 Samuel 27:1-4, 29:3-4)  
Moving the Ark on a cart (2 Samuel 6:2-11)  
Learned to be diplomatic (1 Samuel 30:26-30, 2 Samuel 2:1-4)  
Remained faithful to the covenant with Jonathan (2 Samuel 9:1-6, 13)

**The Bathsheba/Uriah Incident:** This was **the highest point of David's career**, politically: all local enemies were subdued; the Aramean states north of Israel were tributary to David; and, the more powerful nations across the Euphrates were at peace (2Sm10:1-19, 11:1, Ps18:43-45). It is very likely that **David let this success go to his head**: he became a little too sure of himself; he let pride creep into his thinking. David's involvement in the war, only at the end, with **a motive of personal glory**, and his taking the crown are indications of his mental state – out of character for David (2Sm12:26-30a, Ps 19:9-10a).

**Who was Bathsheba?** After the death of the illegitimate child, Bathsheba (Bath-shua) went on to have four sons of David, including **Solomon** and **Nathan** (1Chr3:1a,5). **Both genealogies of Christ in the New Testament thus include Bathsheba** (Mt1:6b, Lk3:23,31b-32a). Clearly the lineage through Bathsheba had a purpose to God: there is nothing explicit anywhere in the Bible to explain it, but there are clues: Bathsheba was the grand-daughter of David's counsellor, Ahithophel (2Sm11:3, 23:34b, 15:12aβ); Bathsheba clearly came from a family of some standing, possibly Priestly or Levitical. Uriah had married into this family – this could explain Ahithophel's going over to Absalom (2Sm17:14). **This is a situation that David had seen before and should have learned from** (1Sm25:32-34,36-38, 2Sm12:7-9).

**An Object Lesson:** God can work through circumstances - God intended Bathsheba in the line of Messianic descent (1Kg15:5, 1:11,15a,17,28a,30, Ps139:1,5-6). **Because David had not learned his life lesson the first time around, God made sure he could not fail to understand it the second time** (2Sm12:10-11a,13, 1Kg1:1a,5a,32-34).

**David's Teaching:** **David did learn**, and he captured his learning, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for us in the Psalms. David's victories over the nations around and even his climactic victory over the Aramean forces, were God's victories: there was **no place for “human pride”** (Ps20:6-8). Our **victory** over the forces of evil amassed against us by Satan the Devil **can only come through God's deliverance**. Satan will attack us at our weakest points: these are the “hidden” sins for which we need God's help the most (Ps21:1-7). God allows us to go through trials so that we can truly see our weaknesses and truly see what we are in relation to God (Ps37:5-7a, 31:23-24, 36:10-11 51:9-10).

Trials are never pleasant, but they serve a purpose: **“you may be perfect and complete”** – even Jesus “learned” from “life lessons”. We have an enormous record of God's working with David – many of his “life lessons” are laid bare for us: none more so than the Bathsheba/Uriah incident. David was at the pinnacle of his career after the Ammonite/Aramean war, which **weakened his relationship with God**. God worked through the circumstances and used **Bathsheba as an important object lesson for all True Worshipers** – the line of Messianic Descent goes through Bathsheba. David repented and was forgiven, but he suffered untold misery for his sins. **God works with all of us in the same way:** the “life lessons”, the trials we face, are **to strengthen us spiritually**, to **purify our inner most being** so that God can grant us **the gift of eternal life**.

This material is based on the paper “David – a Man After My Own Heart” available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>

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