

11:1 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof of a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful.

3. David sent someone to enquire about the woman.

It was reported: This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

4. So David sent messengers to fetch her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period) Then she returned to her house.

5 The woman conceived; and she sent and told David: 'I am pregnant.'

6. So David sent word to Joab: 'Send me Uriah the Hittite' and Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab

and the people fated, and how the war was going.

8. Then David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house, and wash your feet.' Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

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

10. When they told David, 'Uriah did not go down to his house', David said to Uriah, 'You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?'

11. Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; + and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will ~~not~~ not do such a thing.'

12. Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and to-morrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day,

13. David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

14. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

16. As Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors.

17. The men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well.

18. Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting;

19. and he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished

telling the king the news about the fighting.

"Then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, "Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would start from the wall?"

"Who killed Shimeath son of Jeberaiel? Did not a woman throw a upper millstone on him from the wall so that he died at Kibey? Why did you go so near the wall?" Then you shall say, "Your servant knew the Hittite is dead too."

"To the messenger said to David, 'The men gained an advantage over us, and were out against us in the field; but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate gate.'

"Then the soldiers said at your servant from the wall; some of the king's servants are dead; and your servant knew the Hittite is dead too also.'

"David said to the messenger, 'Thus you shall say to Joab, "Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours one and another; please you attack on the city, and overthrow it." And

encourage him.'

<sup>26</sup> When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him.

<sup>27</sup> After the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord,

12 'and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor.<sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.'<sup>3</sup> Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him. Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'It's the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves

to die; "he shall restore the lamb Parkold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

"Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your masters house, and your masters wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more." Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

"Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

"Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun." For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun!

<sup>12</sup>David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord!' Nathan said to David, 'Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die.

<sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die.' Then Nathan went to his house.

The Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore <sup>15</sup>David, and it became very ill. David therefore pleaded with God for the child; David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground. <sup>16</sup>The elders of his house stood beside him, urging him to rise from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the

seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, 'while the child was still alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us: how then can we tell him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm.'<sup>19</sup> But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, he perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, 'Is the child dead?' They said, 'He is Dead.'<sup>20</sup> Then David rose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of the Lord, and worshipped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him and he ate.<sup>21</sup> Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you rose and ate food."<sup>22</sup> He said, 'While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, "Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me, and the child may

live"<sup>25</sup> But now he is dead, why should I fast?  
Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him,  
but he will not return to me.

<sup>24</sup> Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba and  
he went to her, and lay with her, and she  
bore a son, and he named him Solomon.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD loved him and sent a message by  
the prophet Nathan; so he named him Jedidiah  
because of the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the  
Ammonites, and took the royal city.<sup>27</sup> Joab  
sent messengers to David, and said, 'I have  
fought against Rabbah; moreover I have taken  
the water city.<sup>28</sup> Now, then, gather the rest of  
the people together, and encamp against the  
city, and take it; or I myself will take the  
city, and it will be called by my name.'<sup>29</sup> So  
David gathered all the people together, and  
went to Rabbah, and fought against it  
and took it.<sup>30</sup> He took the crown of Milcom

from his head; the weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone, and it was placed on David's head. He also brought forth the spoil of the city, a very great amount.<sup>31</sup> He brought out the people who were in it, and set them to work with saws, and iron picks and iron axes, or sent them to the brickworks. Thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Some time passed. David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar; and David's son Amnon fell in love with her. Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of David's brother Shimeah; and Jonadab was a very crafty man. He said to him, 'O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?' Amnon said to him, 'I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.' Jonadab said to him, 'Lie down on your bed, and pretend to be ill; and when your father comes to see you, say to him, "Let my sister Tamar come and give me something to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, so that I may see it and eat it from her hand." So Amnon lay down, and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, 'Please let my sister come and make'

a couple of cakes in my sight, so that I may eat from her hand.'

Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, 'Go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him! So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house where he was lying down. She took dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. Then she took the the pan and set them out before him, but he refused to eat. Amnon said, 'Send out everyone from me! So everyone went out from him. Then Amnon said to Tamar, 'Bring the food into the chamber, so that I may eat from your hand.' So Tamar took the cakes she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her, and said to her, 'Come, lie with me, my sister.' She answered him, 'No my brother, do not force me; for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do anything so vile!'

2 Samuel 13:17

17 Horncastor

As for me, where could I carry my shame?  
And as for you, you would be as one of  
the scoundrels in Israel. Now therefore, I  
beg you, speak to the king; for he will  
not withhold me from you." But he would  
not listen to her; and being stronger than  
she was, he forced her and lay with her.

Then Amnon was seized with a very  
great loathing for her; indeed, his loathing  
was even greater than the lust he had  
felt for her. Amnon said to her "Get out!"  
But she said to him, "No, my brother; for  
this is wrong in sending me away; it is  
greater than the power that you did  
to me". But he would not listen to her.

He called the young man who served  
him and said, "Put this woman out of  
my presence, and bolt bolt the door after  
her" (now she was wearing long robe  
with sleeves; for this is how the

Magan daughters of the King were clothed in earlier times.) So his servants put her out, and barred the door after her. But Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she was wearing. She put her hand on her head, and went away, crying aloud as she went.

Her brother Absalom said to her "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother; do not take this to heart". So Tamar remained, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house.

When King David heard of all these things, he became very angry but he would not punish his son Amnon. Amnon, because he loved her, for he hates his firstborn. But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had

Rape of his sister Tamar.

After two full years Absalom had sheepshears at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. Absalom came to the king, and said "Your servant has sheepshears; will the king and his servants please go with your servant? But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go, or else we will be burdensome to you". He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessings. Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us". The king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

Absalom made a feast like a king's feast. Then Absalom commanded his

2 Samuel 13

17 Hornbeam

Servants, watch when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, "Strike Amnon", then kill him. Do not be afraid; have I not myself commanded you? Be courageous and valiant." So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons rose, and each mounted his mule and fled.

While they were on the way, the report came to David that Absalom had killed all the king's sons and not one of them was left. The king rose tore his garments, and lay on the ground; and all his servants who were standing by tore their garments. But Jonadab, the son of David's brother Shimeah, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men the king's sons; Amnon alone is dead. This has been

determined by Absalom from the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar. Therefore, do not let my Lord the King take it to heart, as if all the King's sons were dead; for Amnon alone is dead.

But Absalom fled. When the young men who kept watch looked up, he saw many people coming from the Horonaim road by the side of the mountain. Jonadab said to the King, "See, the King's sons have come; as your servant said, so it has come about. As soon as he had finished speaking, the King's sons arrived, and raised three lances and wept; and the king and all his servants also wept very bitterly.

But Absalom fled, and went to Gath son of Achish, king of Geshur. David mourned for his son day after day. Absalom, having fled to Geshur, stayed there for three years. And the heart of the king went out, yearning for Absalom; for he was now wounded over

2 Survivor

13

17

Hornbeam

the death of Anna.