

NATHAN REBUKES DAVID (II Samuel 12)

Parts: Narrator
Nathan
David
Servants 1&2

Narrator:

Then Yehowah sent Nathan to David.

Servant (1):

"My Lord, the Prophet Nathan is here to speak with you."

David:

"Show him in." (*Nathan enters*) "Peace, Nathan."

Nathan:

"[Peace, My Lord. I have something to tell you.] There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

David (*angrily*):

"As Yehowah lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

Nathan:

"You are the man! Thus says Yehowah, God of Israel: `I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. Why have you despised the commandment of Yehowah, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife."

David:

"I have sinned against Yehowah!"

Nathan:

"Yehowah also has put away your sin. You shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of Yehowah to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

Narrator:

Then Nathan departed to his house. And Yehowah struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill. David therefore pleaded with God for the child:

David (*praying*):

"O Yehowah, punish me, for I have sinned, only please spare the child's life!"

Narrator:

And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.... And the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them....Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead.

Servant 1 (*whispering to Servant 2*):

"Indeed, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice."

Servant 2:

"How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

Narrator:

When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David called to his servants.

David:

"Is the child dead?"

Servant 2:

"He is dead"

Narrator:

So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes.... And he went into the house of Yehowah and worshiped.... Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

Servant 1:

"What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

David:

"While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, "Who can tell whether Yehowah will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

(The End)