

Beloved Brethren and Sisters

Bible Class 15-0802024 The nature of Bathsheba

She came from a God fearing family. She was the daughter of Eliah or Ammiah who was the son of Ahithophel. Eliah whose name means “God is gracious” was one of David’s gallant officers. Bathsheba name means, “daughter of an oath”. She became the wife of Uriah who was said to be the most loyal of David’s men. After the murder of Uriah she became the wife of David and mother of five sons by him. The first died in infancy. The others were Solomon, Shimea, Shobab and Nathan. She is mentioned in the Lord’s genealogy as “her that had been the wife of Uriah”-Matt 1v6 “This is a sad episode in the life of David who was a gallant warrior. It was probably the only stain on David’s character, “David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord and turned not aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah” -1Kings 15v5. But this was a heavily engrained sin and one that could not be erased as far as the effects of his treatment of Uriah are concerned. While God freely pardons sinners often the effects of committed sin remain. “The tragic lapse in the life of “a man after God’s own heart” is built up with consummate art, from David’s first sight of Bathsheba to the climax of his unalterable remorse, when realizing the enormity of his most grievous sin; he flung himself upon the mercy of God”

Normally he would have gone to war as leader and captain of the troops but he “tarried still at Jerusalem –2Sam11. The Israelites were at war with the Ammonites and the king who had shown himself brave and victorious in battle should have been with his army. But by then a mature man and veteran of many wars and ruler over Israel for some twelve years it is suggested he had become soft and indulgent. Perhaps he felt he had had his day of hard campaigning and war weariness.

But it proved his undoing to stay at home for he got himself into temptation. He had been ruler over Israel for some twelve years and now sought a break from the stresses of the war. We see him perhaps

relaxing on his flat roof from where he saw woman bathing her naked body and “she was very beautiful”. (if David could see her so perhaps could others)

Later on we are told that queen Vashti stoutly refused to expose herself before wine infused men. Had Bathsheba shown the same quality of character David would not have sinned! In fact it seems she showed no guilt but after her husband’s death but went to the palace and became one of David’s many wives (it could be argued that this was reasonable under the circumstances).

This is a very bad episode in the life of David for he also arranged for what would be the almost certain death of Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband. This was to cover up his sin. Thus from David’s lust - adultery, deceit, treachery and murder followed in quick succession. We might say that Uriah was saved much pain in not having to face the fact of his wife’s transgression.

After the accustomed period of mourning Bathsheba became David’s wife . Thus the child was born without disgrace but died within a week of his birth-**it was The Lord’s doing!**. The question arises was Bathsheba truly repentant? Little is said of her regarding this but God blessed them with another son whom they called Solomon his name meaning “Beloved of the Lord.” Also of David’s many wives in the genealogy of Jesus -[Mat 1:6](#) “And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife of Urias*”. What can we say of this but that God looks upon the heart in a way that we cannot. David was forgiven so we might conclude in this matter that she would also have been forgiven but it would depend on her heart and her subsequent behaviour.

This episode of a man beloved of God came from lust and involved also adultery, deceit treachery and murder!

David’s repentance is shown in Psalm 51. And hopefully although her involvement relate to the first three of these, as we might say that she “aided and abetted,” because of her immodesty>(if she could be seen

by David then others might have also seen her and the consequences been much worse for her)

We may reflect that in the beginning Eve was made “a help meet “ for Adam, but she was deceived by the serpent, [Gen 3:6](#) And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

So women have a very powerful part to play-created as a helpmeet they can be for better or worse

Brother Ken

Looking forward to others contributions