

The Bathsheba Affair

King David in History and Legend
Park Avenue Synagogue
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April 15, 2026

Topics

- Overall structure of David Cycle
- 2Sam 11: David and Bathsheba
- 2Sam 12: Nathan's oracle
- Bathsheba and Solomonic Succession (1K 1-2)

Overall Structure of David Cycle

- Saul Cycle (1Sam 9-15)
- History of David's Rise (1Sam 16-2Sam 6)
- Succession Narrative (2Sam 9-1Kgs 2)
- 2Sam 11 as hinge point
 - Temporal clause in v 1
 - Ironical presentation
 - Second beginning in v2 (shift in location/scope)

2Sam 11: David and Bathsheba

- Literary Structure?
 - Modified pediment. Uriah's demurral extended (vv 7-13)
- Shifts in scene: palace to battlefield
- David's characterization
- Climax of narrative?
- Joab apparently knows the conventions of biblical narrative (vv 19-21)
- Central gap in narrative: what does Uriah know?

2Sam 12: Nathan's Oracle

- Mashal as a literary genre
- Gapping in meshalim.
 - Compare Yotam's parable in Judges 9.7-15
 - Clearly on the mind of the biblical author (2Sam 11.21)
- Why are these characters responding to a political crisis with storytelling?
- Nathan's oracle (2Sam 7) as another context for this scene.

2Sam 12: The Death of David's Son

- Vv 15-23
- Courtiers' reactions to David
- David's strange/ambiguous response to the death of his son
- The birth of Solomon

1Kgs 1-2: Bathsheba and Solomonic Succession

- David's impotence (1K 1.1-4)
- Bathsheba's reemergence as a character
- Ongoing political disorder in David's family
- David is a bad father (v 6)
- Adonijah's usurpation (1K 1.5-10)
- Solomon's hasty anointment (contrast Saul's and David's) (1K 1.28-40)
- Solomon treats Adonijah solomonically (1K 1.52-53)
- David's last instruction (1K 2.1-9)
- Adonijah's last gambit (1K 2.10-25)
- Solomon secures his kingdom (vv 26ff)