

David's Sin with Bathsheba and Transition to Solomon

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Session 25

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Keywords

David, Bathsheba, Repentance, Solomon, Temple, Wisdom, Covenant, Succession, Idolatry

Abstract

This lecture by Dr. Ted Hildebrandt examines the moral collapse and sincere repentance of King David following his sin with Bathsheba, using Psalm 51 to illustrate the essential stages of spiritual contrition. It details the transition of royal power to David's son Solomon, emphasizing Solomon's initial humility, his divine gift of wisdom, and the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. However, the lecture also traces Solomon's eventual downfall through political foreign marriages and idolatry, warning how pride and compromise can lead even wise leaders astray. Ultimately, Hildebrandt highlights human frailty, the necessity of personal repentance, and God's capacity to restore and use contrite hearts.

Outline

I. Class Introductory Announcements and Course Logistics

- A. Final exam scheduled for Monday, 9:00–11:00 AM (covering material from last exam to present)
- B. Review sessions conducted by Grace on Friday and Tuesday evenings (6:00–8:00 PM)
- C. Grace period offered for making up missed quizzes and extra credit transcription assignments
- D. Opening prayer acknowledging human frailty, divine wisdom, and academic work as worship

II. David's Sin with Bathsheba and Subsequent Confrontation

- A. The process of temptation and David's stay in Jerusalem while Joab fought in Transjordan
- B. Uriah the Hittite's integrity and refusal to go home while the Ark remained in battle
- C. Nathan the prophet's confrontation using the parable of the rich man and the poor man's lamb
- D. Covenantal role of Old Testament prophets as checks, balances, and prosecuting attorneys

III. David's Repentance and the Stages of Contrition (Psalm 51)

- A. Consequences declared: perpetual warfare in David's house and public dishonor by Absalom
- B. Fasting, prayer, and David's acceptance of God's judgment upon the death of the infant
- C. Four progressive stages of repentance reflected in Psalm 51:
 - 1. Acknowledgment of wrong action ("I did it and it was wrong")
 - 2. Recognition of harm caused to others ("I did it and it hurt you")
 - 3. Realization of innate human corruption ("I wholly I" / sinful at birth)
 - 4. Awareness of sin's primary impact on relationship with God ("Against you only have I sinned")

- D. Divine restoration and God's ability to use broken, contrite individuals (e.g., David writing Psalm 51)

IV. The Transition of Royal Power to Solomon

- A. Adonijah's self-exaltation at En-Rogel and David's neglect of parental discipline
- B. Counter-action by Nathan and Bathsheba to secure Solomon's divine and royal line
- C. Public inauguration of Solomon riding David's royal mule to the Gihon spring
- D. David's final charges and conditional covenant warnings ("Be strong and show yourself a man")
- E. Execution of David's "hit list" to purge the realm (Joab, Shimei, and Adonijah)

V. Solomon's Reign: Wisdom, Wealth, and Achievements

- A. Solomon's dream at Gibeon and his humble prayer for a discerning/listening heart
- B. The "wisdom victory" over two prostitutes demonstrating maternal compassion
- C. Literary productivity: authoring 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs, and natural science taxonomies
- D. Construction and dedication of the First Temple in Jerusalem using cedars of Lebanon
- E. International renown and the visit of the Queen of Sheba

VI. Solomon's Spiritual Decline and Moral Compromise

- A. Foreign alliances and marriages (700 wives and 300 concubines, including Pharaoh's daughter)
- B. Construction of pagan high places (Chemosh, Molech, Ashtoreth) on the hill east of Jerusalem
- C. Theological reflection on spiritual decline, human susceptibility to wandering, and the need for humility ("One step" principle)