



HOAW Newsletter

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:1-2, 9-12

November 2021

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

David and Uriah

Dr. Greg Bourgond

(Adapted from Articles in GotQuestions.org)

In devotions the other night with my grandson and his friend I shared the story of Uriah. We can learn a lot from the story of David and Uriah. Uriah is one of my heroes. Uriah was a **Hittite** who had become part of King David's **mighty men**; he is most known for being the husband of Bathsheba. There is much we can learn from Uriah and the account involving him. One of the things I love about the Bible is its honest and candid treatment mankind with all its failings displayed in bold relief.

"The Hittites are mentioned more than 50 times in the Bible. They were descended from Heth, the son of Canaan (and great-grandson of Noah, Genesis 10:15). They ruled the area of Syria and eastern Turkey and battled with Egypt and Babylon for territory. Babylonian and Assyrian records refer to Syria and Israel as "Hatti-land," and Joshua 1:4 includes their territory as a

great part of the Promised Land for Israel. Abraham was well acquainted with the Hittites, and he bought the burial cave for Sarah from them in Genesis 23. Esau took wives from among the Hittites (Genesis 26:34), and Uriah the Hittite was one of David's mighty men (2 Samuel 11:3). The Hittites are mentioned throughout the kingdom years and even after the Jews' return from captivity (Ezra 9:1). It is assumed that the Hittites were eventually absorbed into the surrounding cultures and lost their distinctive identity."

"Second Samuel 23:8-39 and 1 Chronicles 11:10-47 list a group of people known as mighty men of David or David's mighty men. They are also referred to as the "thirty chiefs" (1 Chronicles 11:15) and simply "the Thirty" (1 Chronicles 12:4). These mighty men of David were a group of David's toughest military warriors who were credited with heroic feats, including Josheb-basshebeth, who killed 800 men in one battle with a spear (2 Samuel 23:8). Although the

mighty men are called "the Thirty," a total of 37 men are listed, meaning that not all of these men were on the team the entire time. Some of them, like Uriah, were killed in battle during David's reign. Another explanation may be that David's elite group of mighty men numbered approximately 30, a figure not meant to be exact. Some of these mighty men of David had considerable military skill and the blessing of God. David's mighty men served an important role in protecting the king and fighting for the freedom of their nation, the land of Israel."

All who were counted among David's mighty men were men David deemed to be trustworthy. In the account of [David, Bathsheba](#), and Uriah, we see just how honorable Uriah was. The story is found in [2 Samuel 11](#) described so clearly in an article posted on [GotQuestions.org](#).

During the spring, the usual time for battles, the military forces of Israel went to war under the leadership of [General Joab](#), while King David remained in Jerusalem.

“Joab, for all his faults (the killing of Absalom with 3 Javelins as he dangled from a tree), was obviously a capable man of war and valiant on the battlefield. And he ought to be given credit for his loyalty to David for almost four decades. Joab also counseled David when David sinfully desired to take a census; if David had heeded Joab’s advice, he could have spared his nation the plague that befell Israel (2 Samuel 24). When David was on his death bed, Joab conspired with Adonijah to install Adonijah as the next king, instead of Solomon (1 Kings 1). This action, plus Joab’s other rash decisions, vengeful murders, and inability to take certain important orders, finally drove David over the edge. David commanded Solomon to ensure Joab’s execution, an act that was carried out by Benaniah as Joab was clinging to the horns of the altar in hopes of finding clemency (1 Kings 2:5–6, 28–34).”

As David was walking around one day, he saw Bathsheba bathing on the roof of her house and was intrigued by her beauty. He sent someone to ask about her and discovered she was Uriah’s wife. Unfortunately, that knowledge did not dissuade David from acting on his lust; the king summoned Bathsheba to the palace and slept with her. As a result, she became pregnant.

After Bathsheba told David that she was pregnant, he tried to cover up his adultery. His first plan was to call Uriah home from battle. After asking how the battle was going, David told Uriah to go to his house and even sent along a gift for him. The idea was that, while he was home, Uriah would sleep with his wife, and thus he and others would think that the coming child belonged to Uriah.

But Uriah was a man of principle. He did not go back to his house but remained at the palace entrance among the king’s servants. When

David learned of this the next morning, he asked Uriah why he hadn’t gone home. **“Uriah said to David, ‘The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!’”** (2 Samuel 11:11).

Though Uriah had been granted a temporary reprieve from battle by the king, he was a true soldier and chose to remain focused on his mission. Uriah could not fathom indulging his own pleasures while his band of brothers were fighting a battle that still needed to be won.

David asked Uriah to stay one more day and invited Uriah to eat and drink with him. David plied him with alcohol, and Uriah got drunk, but that night he still refused to return to his house and his wife’s embrace. Even drunk, Uriah retained his honor as a soldier.

Seeing that his plot to make Uriah believe the baby was his was not going to work, **David turned to another, even more sinister plan.** The king sent Uriah back to the battle bearing an official letter that instructed Joab, the commander of the army, to place Uriah where the fighting was fiercest and then to withdraw from him, leaving Uriah to die at the hands of the enemy. Joab followed orders, and Uriah the Hittite was killed, along with some others of David’s army. A messenger brought news of Uriah’s death to David, who sent this message back to Joab: **“Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another”** (2 Samuel 11:25).

Murdering Uriah did not resolve David’s problems, of course. After the time for mourning ended, David took Bathsheba to be his wife. **“But the thing David had done displeased the**

LORD” (2 Samuel 11:27). God sent the prophet **Nathan** to confront David regarding his sin.

Nathan told a story of a rich man with many sheep and cattle and a poor man who had only one ewe lamb that was like a daughter to him. The rich man refused to use a sheep of his own to prepare a meal for a traveler and instead took the poor man’s ewe.

“David burned with anger against the man” and even said the man should die and must pay four times the amount the lamb was worth (2 Samuel 12:5–6). **“Then Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’”** (2 Samuel 12:7).

The prophet proceeded to describe all that God had given David and God’s willingness to give more. He asked why David had despised God’s word by doing evil, having Uriah killed and taking Uriah’s wife.

Nathan also told David that the sword would never depart from his house, that his wives would be taken from him publicly, and that the son he had conceived with Bathsheba would die. All of this happened.

In a quick summation of David’s life, **1 Kings 15:5** says, **“David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord’s commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.”** David’s evil scheme against the honorable Uriah was a blot on an otherwise stellar record. Uriah was a casualty of someone else’s sin. He serves as an example of loyalty and honor and a reminder that our sin has consequences beyond ourselves.

So, how could God declare that David was *a man after his heart*? David repented of his sin even though he still suffered the consequences of his sin. No matter what we have done, if we truly repent, God will forgive us—even though we may suffer through the consequences of that sin.

In Acts 13:22 we read "And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'" ESV

We're glad to note that **David repented**. [Psalm 51:1-19](#) is his confession to God and a beautiful prayer for all of us when we sin.

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart."

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."

"Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

"Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar." ESV

God also chose to give David and Bathsheba another son—[Solomon](#),

who would become the next king and an ancestor of Jesus, the Messiah. **God forgave David, just as He is willing to forgive us (1 John 1:9).**

SEVEN LESSONS LEARNED

1. Before we condemn David's behavior, we need to be reminded that but for the grace of God we are all capable of such treachery.
2. Being a man of honor, courage, and valor does not guarantee a happy ending. Yet, we celebrate Uriah's life because of his character even today.
3. God's grace and mercy is unfailing even when we are guilty of terrible sin. When we repent, God is ready to forgive as he did David.
4. Even though God's forgiveness is available to all, the consequences of our sin linger. The sword never departed from the house of David.
5. Sometimes, a hard word from a trusted counselor is used by God to bring us to repentance as was the case of Nathan the prophet when he confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba.
6. We often suffer the consequences of someone else's sin as Uriah did because of David's sin. Therefore, our dependence on God for validation and defense is our hope.
7. God evaluates our hearts over the course of our life (1 Samuel 16:7). He found David to be a man after his heart (Acts 13:22) even though David's life was one of contradictions just like us (1 Kings 15:5).

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

The Foundation (Ground Zero) helps

establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.
www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org.



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depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org. Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out **The Store** on our website (www.heartofawarrior.org). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org

Legacy Minded Men
www.legacymindedmen.org

Church for Men

<http://churchformen.com/>

Resolute

<https://beresolute.org/>

Life Way Men

<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

Men's Fraternity

<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

Man in the Mirror

<http://maninthemirror.org/>

Men with No Regrets

<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

National Collision of Men's Ministries

<http://ncmm.org/>

Every Man's Battle

<https://newlife.com/emb/>

Iron Sharpens Iron

<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

Ransomed Heart Ministries

<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

Band of Brothers

www.bandofbrothers.org/

Man Up God's Way

<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

Iron Works

<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>