

# 2 Samuel 11:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

## Analysis

**And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of David and Bathsheba, emphasizing devastating consequences of sin. David's adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah represent the nadir of his reign. The Hebrew narrative's sparse, matter-of-fact reporting heightens the horror. The phrase "but the thing that David had done displeased the LORD" (v. 27) marks divine displeasure. This chapter demonstrates that even "a man after God's own heart" can fall catastrophically when neglecting spiritual disciplines and succumbing to temptation. Cross-references to Psalm 51 reveal David's repentance.

## Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 11 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity.

Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding devastating consequences of sin provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of devastating consequences of sin?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר אָוֹתִי הָיָי אֶתְּמָר  
 said And Uriah H413 unto David The ark and Israel and Judah

H559 H223 H1732 H727 H3478 H3063

עַל אָדָן יְשַׁב יְמִינֵי וְעַבְדֵי יְהוָה אָדָן יְשַׁב יְמִינֵי  
 abide in tents and my lord and the servants and my lord

H3427 H5521 H113 H3097 H5650 H113 H5921

בַּיּוֹתְרִים בְּשָׂדֶה חַגִּים יְמִינֵי אָל אָב וְאֶתְּנָן יְשַׁב  
 in the open fields are encamped shall I then go into mine house

H6440 H7704 H2583 H589 H935 H413 H1004

וְאֵת לְאֵת לְאֵת לְאֵת לְאֵת לְאֵת לְאֵת  
 to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife as thou livest as thou livest

H398 H8354 H7901 H5973 H802 H2416 H2416

בְּזַבְדָּךְ רַבְדָּךְ נַפְשָׁךְ אַתְּ אַתְּ אַתְּ אַתְּ אַתְּ  
 and as thy soul I will not do this thing

H5315 H518 H6213 H853 H1697 H2088

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 7:2** (Parallel theme): That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

**2 Samuel 20:6** (References Lord): And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

**2 Samuel 7:6** (References Israel): Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

**1 Samuel 1:26** (References Lord): And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

