

# 2 Samuel 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said,  
Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of  
Uriah the Hittite?

## Analysis

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**And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?**

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

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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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## 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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וְשָׁלַח	דָּוִד	וַיִּדְרֹשׁ	אֵת הַנְּשִׂא	וַיֹּאמֶר	הַלּוֹא	זֹאת
sent	And David	and enquired	after the woman	And one said	H3808	H2063
H7971	H1732	H1875	H802	H559		
בֵּת	שֵׁן בַּעַ	בֵּת	אֶלְיָם	אֵת הַנְּשִׂא	אֲוִרְיָה	
H0	Is not this Bathsheba	the daughter	of Eliam	after the woman	of Uriah	
	H1339	H1323	H463	H802	H223	
הַחִתִּי:						
the Hittite						
H2850						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 23:39** (Parallel theme): Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

**1 Chronicles 3:5** (Parallel theme): And these were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel:

**Jeremiah 5:8** (Parallel theme): They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.

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