

# 2 Samuel 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

## Analysis

---

**But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Nathan's Rebuke, emphasizing conviction, repentance, consequences. Nathan's prophetic confrontation using parable demonstrates effective rebuke methodology. David's immediate repentance ("I have sinned against the LORD") contrasts with Saul's defensive self-justification. The child's death demonstrates that forgiveness doesn't eliminate all consequences. Theological themes include God's hatred of sin, the necessity of repentance, the distinction between eternal and temporal consequences, and God's grace that continues despite devastating sin.

## Historical Context

---

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 12 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 conviction, repentance, consequences 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**

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## **Study Questions**

---

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of conviction, repentance, consequences?
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?

אֶחָד תִּכְבֹּשׁ הָאֵם כִּי כֹל לְאִין וְלֹכֶשׁ

H369

H3605

H3588

H518

H3535

H259

עַמּוֹ וַתִּגְדַּל לַיְיִחִיָּה קִנְיָה אִשְׁרַ קִטְנָה

H834

H7069

H2421

H1431

H5973

תֹּאכַל לִמְפֹּת וְיִחַד וְכֵן יוֹעֵם

H5973

H1121

H3162

H6595

H398

ל ו יִתְּהִי תִשְׁכַּב ב וּבְחִיק ו תִּשְׁתֶּה וּמִכֶּס ו

H3563

H8354

H2436

H7901

H1961

H0

כַּבֵּת:

**and was unto him as a daughter**

H1323

**2 Samuel 11:3** (Parallel theme): 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?

**Micah 7:5** (Parallel theme): Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.