

# The Rebuke of David and His Confession: A Strong Lesson on God’s Chastisement of the Believer 2 Samuel 12:01–19

**1. *The chastisement of God pronounced upon David:  
A lesson on the discipline of God***

- a. The story of two men:  
One rich, one poor
- 1) The rich man was very wealthy:  
Had many herds and flocks
  - 2) The poor man was poverty-stricken:  
Had only one little sheep
    - Was his pet
    - Was his only companion:  
Loved the sheep as a daughter
  - 3) The rich man had a guest to entertain in his home
    - He refused to slaughter one of his own animals
    - He stole the only lamb of the poor man and served the guest
- b. The indignation of David
- 1) He pronounced that the rich man deserved to die
  - 2) He demanded payment for the lamb four times over

- 1 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.
- 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,
- 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.
- 4 “Now a traveller came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveller who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”
- 5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die!
- 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

c. The emphatic identification of the rich man: It was David himself — “You are the man”

d. The message of God to David

1) A list of God’s blessings

- Position: Made king
- Protection: From Saul
- Wealth: Given Saul’s estate
- Royal privilege:  
Received Saul’s wives
- A unified nation and rule
- A lack of nothing

2) The charges against David

- Despised God’s Word
- First degree,  
premeditated murder
- Adultery
- Deception:  
Secretly ordered  
Uriah killed in battle

3) The pronouncement of God’s judgment

- David’s house would be filled with violence. 12:18; 13:29; 18:14-15; 1 Kng 2:24-25
- David’s own house (sons) would grieve him and some actually rebel against him, 13:1-14; 13:23-39; 15:1-12
- David’s wives would publicly commit adultery against him. 16:20-22; 1 Kng 2:13-17

7 Then Nathan said to David,  
“You are the man!  
This is what the LORD,  
the God of Israel, says:  
‘I anointed you king over Israel,  
and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

8 I gave your master’s house to you,  
and your master’s wives into your arms.  
I gave you all Israel and Judah.  
And if all this had been too little,  
I would have given you even more.

9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD  
by doing what is evil in his eyes?  
You struck down Uriah the Hittite  
with the sword and took his wife  
to be your own. You killed him  
with the sword of the Ammonites.

10 Now, therefore,  
the sword will never depart from your house,  
because you despised me  
and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite  
to be your own.’

11 “This is what the LORD says:  
‘Out of your own household  
I am going to bring calamity on you.  
Before your very eyes I will take your wives  
and give them to one who is close to you,  
and he will sleep with your wives  
in broad daylight.

12 You did it in secret,  
but I will do this thing in broad daylight  
before all Israel.’ ”

**2. The confession of David:  
A lesson on forgiveness,  
Psa 32, 51**

- a. David confessed his sin
- b. David was forgiven  
and the LORD set aside  
the death penalty,  
Lev 20:10; Num 35:31-33
- c. David heard the fateful  
pronouncement:  
The child born to Bathsheba —  
conceived in adultery —  
would die
- d. David's child became  
critically ill
- e. David humbled himself
  - Pleaded with God
  - Fasted
  - Spent the nights  
on his face in prayer
  - Refused to break his prayer  
and fast
- f. David's child died:  
On the seventh day
  - 1) His servants feared telling him
  - 2) His grief had caused so much  
pain, he had earlier refused  
to listen to them, 17
  - 3) His reaction was feared:  
He could harm himself or them
- g. David noticed his servants  
whispering:  
Realized the child was dead

- 13 Then David said to Nathan,  
“I have sinned against the LORD.”  
Nathan replied,  
“The LORD has taken away your sin.  
You are not going to die.
- 14 But because by doing this  
you have shown utter contempt for the LORD,  
the son born to you will die.”
- 15 After Nathan had gone home,  
the LORD struck the child  
that Uriah's wife had borne to David,  
and he became ill.
- 16 David pleaded with God for the child.  
He fasted and spent the nights  
lying in sackcloth on the ground.
- 17 The elders of his household stood beside him  
to get him up from the ground, but he refused,  
and he would not eat any food with them.
- 18 On the seventh day the child died.  
David's attendants were afraid to tell him  
that the child was dead, for they thought,  
“While the child was still living,  
he wouldn't listen to us  
when we spoke to him.  
How can we now tell him the child is dead?  
He may do something desperate.”
- 19 David noticed that his attendants  
were whispering among themselves,  
and he realized the child was dead.  
“Is the child dead?” he asked.  
“Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”