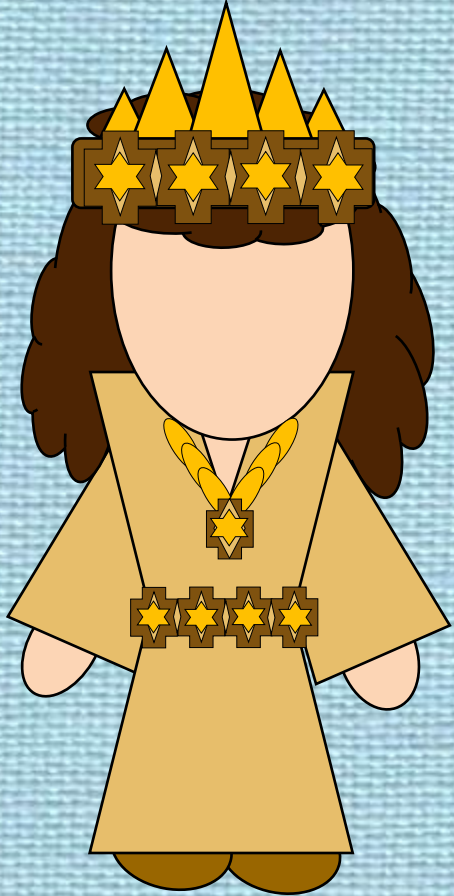


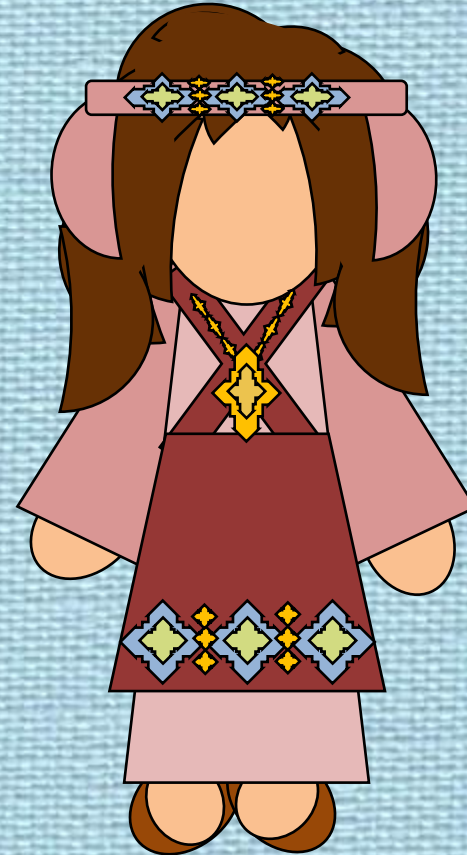
The Downfall of King David

2 Samuel 11:1-12:9



*But every man is tempted,
when he is drawn away of his
own lust, and enticed.*

James 1:14



The Switch

A switch point is a piece of a railroad track that can move, allowing train cars to be diverted onto another track

President Gordon B. Hinckley, when working for a railroad early in his career, received a call from a railroad worker in the state of New Jersey.

He said a passenger train had arrived without its baggage car.



“We discovered that a baggage car that belonged in Newark, New Jersey, was in fact in New Orleans, Louisiana—1,500 miles from its destination.

Just the three-inch movement of the switch in the St. Louis yard by a careless employee had started it on the wrong track, and the distance from its true destination increased dramatically.



That is the way it is with our lives. Instead of following a steady course, we are pulled by some mistaken idea in another direction.

The movement away from our original destination may be ever so small, but, if continued, that very small movement becomes a great gap and we find ourselves far from where we intended to go.”

David's Personal Course

**Strolling along the
roof of his palace
David looked down
and saw Bath-sheba
bathing in the
courtyard of her
home**



**Bath-sheba's
husband Uriah was
a soldier and on the
top list of David's
Gibborim
Commanders
(2 Sam. 23:39)**

Bath-sheba And Uriah

She was the daughter of Captian Eliam, one of David's commanders

She had married Uriah the Hittite, a dedicated soldier in David's army

She was invited to David's palace, but the visit became more than a social call and became with child

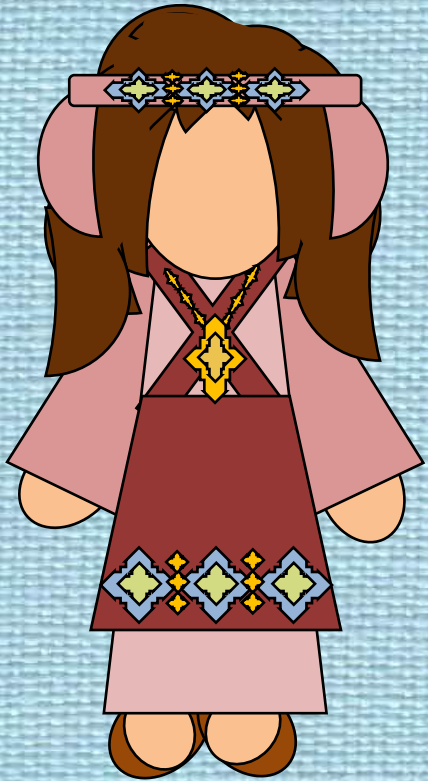
King David sent Joab to get Uriah at the battle front so Uriah could come home and be with his wife

Uriah returned but not to his home, but felt a loyalty to sleep at the doorsteps of the king's home with all the servants

King David invited Uriah to his palace to dine with him and give him wine so he would return home, but Uriah did not go home and took his sleep with the servants

King David sent Uriah back to Joab who then sent Uriah to attack the city wall. Not only did the men get killed but Uriah also

When the mourning period was over for Bath-sheba, King David married her, but the child died of an illness as an infant. Her second son was named Solomon



Choices

Which was David's first big mistake?

Where should David have been during war time?

He committed adultery

He invited her to his place

He found out she was married

He inquired after her

He looked upon a woman washing herself

He tarried at Jerusalem instead of going to battle

What righteous choice could David have made when he first saw Bathsheba washing herself?

At what other points could David have controlled his lustful desires and corrected the direction he was heading?

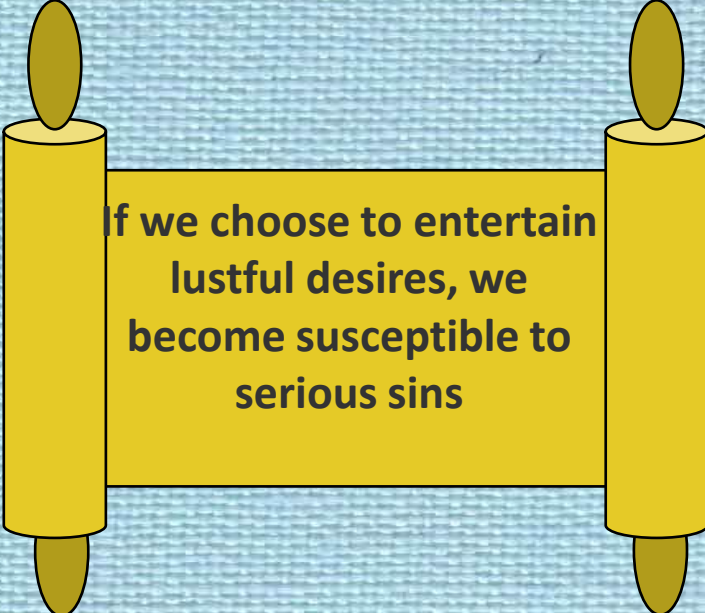
Susceptible

One way some people choose to entertain lustful desires is by using pornography.

The word *pornography* refers to any pictures, videos, books, or song lyrics intended to stimulate sexual desires.

“Pornography in all forms is especially dangerous and addictive. What may begin as an unexpected exposure or a curious exploration can become a destructive habit. Use of pornography is a serious sin and can lead to other sexual transgression.

Avoid pornography at all costs. ... It causes you to lose the guidance of the Spirit and can damage your ability to have a normal relationship with others, especially your future spouse. It limits your ability to feel true love. If you encounter pornography, turn away from it immediately” (2)



If we choose to entertain
lustful desires, we
become susceptible to
serious sins



Second Mistake

Instead of repenting what does David do?

Why was David wanting Uriah to go home?

He placed Uriah on the front lines of battle

He asked Uriah to supper and caused him to drink, so Uriah would go home

Uriah was devoted to the king

He wanted Uriah to spend the night with Bathsheba

David attempts to hide his sin

Why did Uriah refuse to go home

What other way did David persuade Uriah to go home?

What sin did David commit in order to hide his adultery?

To Hide

“At times, consequences of sin may appear to be very subtle to the sinner. We may even convince ourselves ...

that no one will be able to detect our sins and that they are well concealed. But always to our Heavenly Father and often to spiritually sensitive leaders, parents, and friends, our sins are glaringly apparent. ...



“When we undertake to cover our sins ... the heavens withdraw themselves; [and] the Spirit of the Lord is grieved’.

We lose our spiritual gifts. ...

To Remove

“If the Spirit is pricking your heart to correct something in your life, know this: your soul is precious. Heavenly Father wants you to be part of His eternal family.



“I lovingly plead, ‘Do not procrastinate the day of your repentance’.

Start the process now. Remove the stench of sin with the remedy of repentance. Then, through the Atonement, the Savior can wash you clean.”

Displeasing the Lord

Can one continue with their sins kept in secret?



“The Lord also hath not put away thy sin” (JST, 2 Samuel 12:13).

“David committed a dreadful crime, and all his life afterwards sought for forgiveness. Some of the Psalms portray the anguish of his soul; yet David is still paying for his sin.

He did not receive the resurrection at the time of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Peter declared that his body was still in the tomb, and the Prophet Joseph Smith has said, ‘David sought repentance at the hand of God carefully with tears, for the murder of Uriah; but he could only get it through hell: he got a promise that his soul should not be left in hell.’”



Nathan Knew



The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David, and Nathan told him a parable

Parable of the Lamb

He took the poor man's lamb and dressed it

-- He killed the lamb and prepared it as a meal for his guest



What punishment did King David propose for the rich man who stole the poor man's lamb?

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #115 *Come, Ye Disconsolate*

Video: To Look Upon (4:15)



- 1. President Gordon B. Hinckley (“Words of the Prophet: Seek Learning,” *New Era*, Sept. 2007, 2).**
- 2. (*For the Strength of Youth* [booklet, 2011], 12).**
- 3. Elder Spencer V. Jones (“Overcoming the Stench of Sin,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2003, 88, 89).**
- 4. Elder Joseph Fielding Smith(Answers to Gospel Questions, 1:74.)**

David sinned when he became involved with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. “In God’s sight, sexual sins are extremely serious. They defile the sacred power God has given us to create life. The prophet Alma taught that sexual sins are more serious than any other sins except murder or denying the Holy Ghost (see Alma 39:5)” (*For the Strength of Youth* [booklet, 2011], 36).

David further sinned when he orchestrated Uriah’s death to hide his sin of adultery. Because of this sin, David fell from exaltation (see D&C 132:39). However, he pleaded with the Lord for forgiveness (see Psalm 51) and asked the Lord to not “leave [his] soul in hell” (Psalm 16:10).

President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles noted:

“Forgiveness will come eventually to all repentant souls who have not committed the unpardonable sin (see Matt. 12:31). Forgiveness does not, however, necessarily assure exaltation, as is the case with David (see D&C 132:38–39)” (“The Brilliant Morning of Forgiveness,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 21, note 15).

Unworthy Thoughts:

President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles suggested a method to drive away unworthy thoughts:

“If you can control your thoughts, you can overcome habits, even degrading personal habits. If you can learn to master them you will have a happy life.

“This is what I would teach you. Choose from among the sacred music of the Church a favorite hymn, one with words that are uplifting and music that is reverent, one that makes you feel something akin to inspiration. ... Go over it in your mind carefully. Memorize it. Even though you have had no musical training, you can think through a hymn.

“Now, use this hymn as the place for your thoughts to go. Make it your emergency channel.

Whenever you find these shady actors have slipped from the sidelines of your thinking onto the stage of your mind, put on this record, as it were.

“As the music begins and as the words form in your thoughts, the unworthy ones will slip shamefully away” (“Inspiring Music—Worthy Thoughts,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1974, 28).