

# David Never Sinned, Except in the Matter of Uriah

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David Sinned in Numbering the People  
(2 Samuel 24:10)

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Uriah  
(1 Kings. 15:5)

King David sinned many times in his life just as all human beings do (Rom. 3:23; 1Jn. 1:10). However, because David repented quickly whenever he broke God's commands, God forgave him. David's propensity to deal with sin expeditiously is the reason God referred to him as a man after His own heart

And when He (God) had removed him (King Saul), He raised up for them (nation of Israel) David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, '**I have found David** the son of Jesse, **a man after My own heart**, who will do all My will' (Ac. 13:22; cf. 1Sam. 13:14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

In the case of numbering the people of Israel, David repented immediately after he had sinned.

Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king (David). And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. <sup>10</sup>And David's heart (inner conscience) condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity (sin; cf. 1Jn. 3:4) of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly' (2Sam. 24:9-10; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In contrast to this speedy repentance, David seemed aloof to what appears to be a much greater sin following his action against Uriah, who was a very loyal soldier. In fact, it wasn't until much later, when God sent his prophet Nathan to David, that any repentance occurred.

Then in the morning it was so that David wrote a letter to Joab (David's army commander) and sent it by the hand of Uriah (the man David intended to kill). <sup>15</sup>And he wrote in the letter, saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest (fiercest) battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die' (2Sam. 11:14-15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Just as David commanded, so it was fulfilled. The report that followed the battle was delivered by a messenger and David's reaction was one of indifference.

The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and **your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.** <sup>25</sup>Then David said to the messenger, Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him. <sup>26</sup>When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. <sup>27</sup>And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But **the thing that David had done displeased** (was evil in the eyes of) **the Lord** (2Sam. 11:24-27; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

About nine months after the death of Uriah, David had still not repented of his heinous crime. Therefore, God sent Nathan the prophet to emphasize the seriousness of his deed (cf. 2Sam. 12:1-8).

Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord (cf. Ex. 20:13 – 17), to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. <sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup>For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.' <sup>13</sup>Then (after God placed David's sin right in front of him) David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. <sup>14</sup>However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die' (2Sam. 12:9-14; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So although David sinned when he took a census of Israel (see study: David Was Tempted by Satan to Number the People), he repented very quickly without God intervening to point out the seriousness of his action. In contrast, when David commanded Joab to make sure Uriah was killed in battle, he did not repent. It was approximately nine months later that God confronted David because he still had not repented of this sinful deed. Had God not intervened, David may have died for his sin and remained dead until the second resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15). This is why 1Kings 15:5 is worded the way it is, and also why it does not contradict 2Samuel 24:10.

Because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of

his life, **except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite** (1Kgs. 15:5; emphasis added).

The danger for any leader is the tendency to believe they are above the law. This is why God commanded leaders to write His law down, and review it frequently so they do not forget it.

Also it shall be, when he (a king, but applies to any leader of God's people) sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. <sup>19</sup>And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear (show due respect to) the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, <sup>20</sup>**that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren** (look down at them rather than serving them, which happened when David had Uriah killed), that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel (Dt. 17:18-20; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

If there is one reason the families of Israel (not the Jews; see study – Messiah's Message to the Jewish People) and the family of Judah (the Jews) went into captivity, it would be due to the fact their leaders disobeyed this law in Deuteronomy 17:18-20. Had they obeyed this law all twelve families, that descended from Jacob, would have remained together in the Promised Land to this day, and their enemies would never have defeated them. Also, if every religious and political leader today obeyed this command, the nations of this world would function incredibly well. Sadly, this is not the case, but thankfully Jesus Christ will restore his Father's law when he returns to rule this planet (Isa. 9:6-7; cf. Ac. 1:9-11). When this occurs,

there will be lasting peace and happiness throughout the earth (Rev. 21:4).

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