

# THE PROGRESSION AND CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

(IN THE LIFE OF KING DAVID)

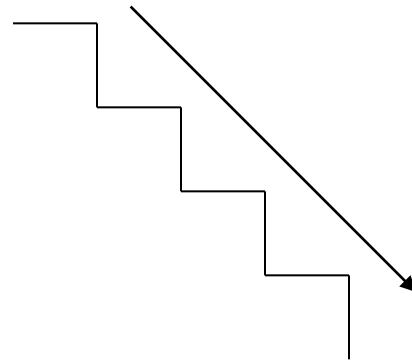
II Samuel 11-18

## INTRODUCTION

Scripture is very clear, and at times very explicit, in warning us of the terrible consequences of sin.

*"The wages (i.e. - payment) of sin is death . . ."* Romans 6:23a

Sin does not stand still! It is not stagnate! It is always a downward spiral, with the results ("*wages*") always leading to "*death*" . . . whether physical, emotional, or spiritual!



King David

Perhaps we can find no better illustration of this in the Scriptures, than in the life of King David of Israel. Here was a man who had a special relationship with the LORD. Indeed, GOD HIMSELF gave testimony concerning David that he was, ". . . a man after MINE own heart, which shall fulfill all MY will" (Acts 13:22b). Yet there came a point in David's life where he rebelled against the LORD, which then set off a series of tragic events that impacted literally thousands around him. Many in a most terrible way!

Let us follow these events in this man's life (these "steps" if you will), and thus be reminded and admonished ourselves of the tragic, indeed deadly, consequences that will come into our own lives if we too choose to rebel against our GOD!

## Step 1 - David Was Not Where He Was Supposed To Be

*"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel, and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem."* (11:1)

This Scripture tells us that it was ". . . the time when kings go forth to battle. . ." David was a king, but instead of going out to war, he sent others ("*. . . Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel . . .*"), to take care of his responsibility.



David's Men At War

Many times we are tempted to sin because we are in a place we should not be, viewing something we should not view, listening to something we should not listen to, even thinking about something we should not think about.

## Step 2 - David Went And Stayed In A Place Where He Could Sin

*"And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the King's house, and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself, and the woman was very beautiful to look upon."* (11:2)



This Scripture seems to suggest that David innocently wandered into a place of temptation. However, at this very moment, he should have quickly fled back into his house and put the whole incident out of his mind. Instead, he continued to "*. . . look upon*" the woman he should not have.

We all experience various temptations. Indeed, even JESUS HIMSELF did (see Matthew 4:1-11). It is what we do with the temptation that matters. We can either yield to that temptation and thus sin, or, by GOD's grace and power say "NO" to that temptation and thus experience victory.

### Step 3 - David Yielded To The Temptation By Investigating It Further

*"And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" (11:3)*

It is now that David has yielded to the temptation. So he wants to know more about the woman. He discovers her name, and more importantly that she is another man's wife. It is here that he should have said, "She's married . . . she can't be mine." But the sins of lust and covetousness (wanting something that belongs to someone else), overtakes him and the downward spiral continues.

GOD has given each of us a conscience. That "inner-voice" that the HOLY SPIRIT uses to speak to us and convict us when we are about to do evil. Every time we ignore that "voice", we also "quench" and "grieve" HIS HOLY SPIRIT (see I Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30).

### Step 4 - David Acted Out The Sin That Was In His Heart

*"And David sent messengers, and took her, and she came in unto him, and he lay with her, for she was purified from her uncleanness, and she returned unto her house."*

So David ignores the warnings of the HOLY SPIRIT, and commits this terrible act of adultery with another man's wife. The truth of James 1:14-15 becomes a reality in his life . . .

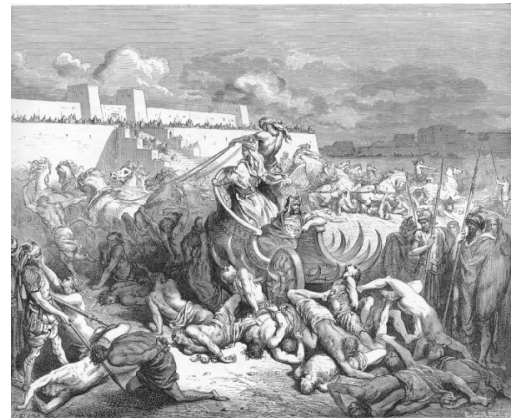
*"But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then, when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."*

Sin unchecked always leads to more and greater sin! This is why the Scriptures warn us, *"The wages (i.e. - payment) of sin is death . . ."* Romans 6:23a. The wise man and woman of GOD will remember this, and thus cling tightly to the LORD JESUS CHRIST and HIS righteousness!

## Step 5 - David's Original Sin Leads To Even Greater Sins

*"And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter saying, set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten and die . . . and Uriah the Hittite died . . ."*

(11:14-15, 17b)

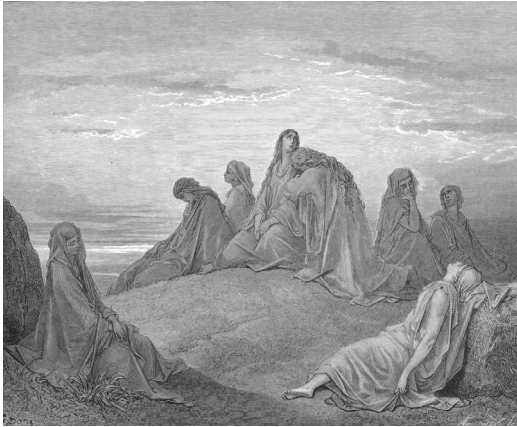


Joab And His Men At War

Now the spiral down of David's sins begins to pick up momentum! First it was just a matter of him not being where he was supposed to be. This eventually led him into committing adultery. Now the progression spirals down to where he commits murder! (see II Samuel 12:9)

Scripture tells us that, "*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil . . .*" Proverbs 8:13a. To possess this "*. . . fear of the LORD . . .*" means that we remember that GOD sees everything we do, hears every word we speak, knows every thought we think, and perceives every attitude we exhibit. As we grow in our "*. . . fear of the LORD . . .*", so too will we grow "*. . . to hate evil . . .*" more and more.

## Step 6 - David's Integrity Continues To Diminish Rapidly



Bathsheba Mourning For Her Husband

*"And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife . . ."* (11:26-27a)

As the progression downward of David's sin continues, so too does his integrity. He has committed adultery with another man's wife, and then he murders the husband. His integrity falls even further as he now marries this widow.

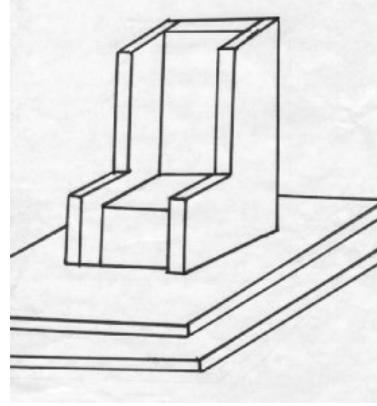
The Scriptures tell us that what David has done, "*. . . displeased the LORD*" (v. 27b). David's character sinks lower and lower as his sins become greater and greater. Whenever we sin, our integrity suffers and all of this makes GOD very unhappy!

## Step 7 - David And His Family Are Cursed By The LORD

*"And Nathan said to David . . . Thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel . . . Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house, because thou hast despised ME, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife."*

(12:7a, 10)

Up to this point, GOD has been silent concerning these sinful events in David's life. But now HE speaks, and it is with a thundering righteous indignation that HE pronounces this rebuke and indictment from HIS heavenly judgment seat!



GOD's Judgment Seat

Notice from the Scriptures above, that GOD equates disobedience to HIM with despising HIM. We as CHRISTians are guilty of the same thing when we sin. GOD loves us with an unconditional, everlasting love. HE reaches out to us and offers us everything we need to experience the joys and blessings of fellowship with HIM. However, we so often choose to reject HIM and HIS love, and instead go our own way and thus suffer the consequences. This is why HE is so grieved when we do this!

## Step 8 - David's Sin Brings Shame To The LORD's Name

*"And Nathan said unto David . . . Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme . . ." (12:14a)*

This step in David's progression is indeed the most destructive! For not only has David's reputation been damaged by these terrible sins, but now the LORD's has as well!

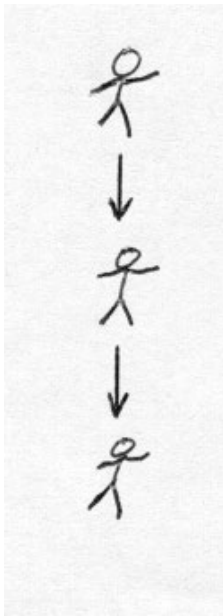
The same is true for us today. This is so, because when we decide to follow the LORD, we become one with HIM (see Ephesians 5:30), and thus people identify us with HIM. With this truth in mind, we should be compelled to living a life that is controlled and directed by the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD. When others see us behave, they should see the LORD JESUS CHRIST living through us. When others hear us speak, they should hear the LORD JESUS CHRIST speaking through us. Anything less than these can bring shame and reproach to our LORD!

*"Let everyone that nameth the Name of CHRIST depart from iniquity." II Timothy 2:19b*

## Step 9 - David's Sin Causes Suffering For The Innocent

*"And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died." (12:15b, 18a)*

Even though David has confessed his sins to the LORD, and the LORD has forgiven him of them (see 12:13), we continue to see the progression and consequences of those sins. In this case, the suffering and death of the innocent child. The truth of Deuteronomy 5:9b becomes a reality here . . .



*". . . for I the LORD THY GOD am a jealous GOD, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that love ME."*

When we sin, we like to believe that our rebellion only affects us. However, the Scriptures teach just the opposite. Indeed, when we sin, our rebellion affects everyone around us . . . even the innocent!

## Step 10 - David's Son Amnon Commits The Same Sin His Father Did

*"And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David loved her. And . . . (Amnon) took hold of her, and said unto her, come lie with me my sister. And she answered him, nay, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing ought to be done in Israel, do not thou this folly. Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice, but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her." (13:1, 11b-12, 14)*

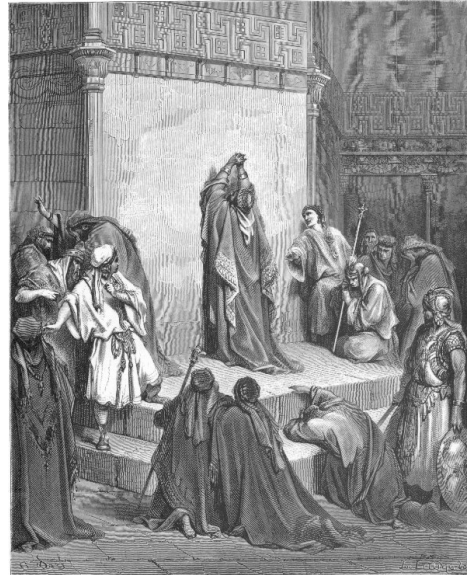
Now the progression down of David's sins really begins to spread in their effects upon those around him, particularly with his own family. Scripture tells us that, ". . . when King David heard of all these things, he was very wroth" (13:21). However, he had no one to blame but himself. Amnon was just acting out what he had learned from his father!

Bill Gothard has made the wise observation, "What the parents do in moderation, the child often does in excess." This can be true in our families as well. Many times parents wonder why their children went so wrong. The answer is, they had "good teachers"! This is why, if we as a parent are indulging in some sin (or thinking of it), we must stop. For our sake . . . and our children's.

## Step 11 - David's Son Absalom Commits Another Sin His Father Did

*"Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, smite Amnon, then kill him, fear not, have not I commanded you? Be courageous, and be valiant. And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded." (13:28-29a)*

GOD's curse upon David and his family (see 12:10), now begins to be fulfilled. And again, David has no one to blame but himself. David thought it nothing to murder Uriah so he could get his wife Bathsheba. Now his son Absalom murders his half-brother Amnon to avenge Amnon's rape of Tamar. This chain of events once again causes David great grief, for Scripture records that, ". . . the king also and all his servants wept very sore" (13:36b).



David Weeping For Amnon

The promises of GOD are always fulfilled. If HE promises blessings from living a righteous life before HIM, we will receive blessings. If HE promises curses from living a wicked life, we will receive those curses. May this truth compel us to always seek the way of blessings!

## Step 12 - David's Son Absalom Totally Rejects His Father

*". . . so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel saying, as soon as ye hear the sound*

*of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. And the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom.” (15:6b, 10, 12b)*

When David sinned and committed adultery with Bathsheba, then had her husband Uriah murdered, GOD spoke through the prophet Nathan and proclaimed that because David had done these things, he had, “. . . *despised the Commandment of the LORD . . .*” and indeed, the very LORD HIMSELF (see 12:9-10). Because of this, GOD pronounced that HE would, “. . . *raise up evil against (David) out of (his) own house . . .*” (see 12:11). Here that curse is fulfilled. For now David’s own son Absalom rebels against him, wrestles the kingdom from him, and forces David to flee for his life (see 15:13-23).

Sin is such a powerful, evil force, it can compel even family members into becoming the most bitter of enemies. Our rebellion against the LORD and HIS Word always affects (and hurts), those closest to us the most!

## Step 13 - David’s Son Absalom Is Destroyed

*“And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth, and the mule that was under him went away. And (Joab) took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.” (18:9, 14b)*

Once again, the consequences of David’s rebellion against the LORD claims another victim. This time his son Absalom. And again, this brings great grief to the heart of David. *“And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept, and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would GOD I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!” (18:33)*. Not only did David hurt over the death of his beloved son Absalom, but even more so because he knew he was to blame!

It would probably be safe to say, that when David first started this terrible, downward spiral of sin in his life and family, he never imagined it would "snowball" into all this destruction. But this is the awful nature of sin. This is why we must never minimize it . . . and always learn to hate it!

## CONCLUSION

Scripture tells us that the HOLY SPIRIT has recorded the stories we have in the Old Testament for a reason. That is, ". . . *they are written for our admonition . . .*" (I Corinthians 10:11). There are many lessons for us to learn from these tragic events in the life of King David. Perhaps the greatest is that sin and its consequences is to be feared in a great way! In a fresh and powerful way, may we be committed to living more righteous and holy lives to the glory of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!

*"Be not deceived, GOD is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the SPIRIT shall of the SPIRIT reap life everlasting."* Galatians 6:7-8

## MY LIFE COMMITMENT

"Heavenly FATHER, I am reminded from this sequence of events in the life of King David, that there are terrible consequences that come upon us when we choose to rebel against YOU and go our own way. I now purpose, through YOUR grace and the power of YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, to seek to have a new and greater fear of sin and it's consequences, and a new and greater desire to live a more righteous and holy life for YOU.

I pray this in the Name of the LORD JESUS  
CHRIST and for HIS glory, Amen."