



The Harness Devotional

July 13 - 18

Bathsheba: Mother of Solomon

Verses: 2 Samuel 11:1-4; 12:24; 1 Kings 1:11; Matthew 1:6

2 Samuel 11:1-4 - In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening, David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof, he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. (NIV)

1 Kings 1:11 - Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king without our lord David's knowing it? (NIV)

Matthew 1:6 - And Jesse, the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife. (NIV)

Worship Song for the Week

"Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)" by Hillsong Worship

This song perfectly captures how God takes our brokenness and uses it to shine His light, turning a tragic history into a beautiful future.

Monday - Day 1: The Pain of Being "Taken"

Focus: "Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her..." (2 Sam 11:4)

Bathsheba's story starts with a lack of choice. She was summoned by a king while her husband was at war. Often, we find ourselves in "messy" situations we didn't initiate. God sees the heart of the one who has been caught in the crossfire of others' power or sin.

Opening Prayer: Lord, I bring You the situations in which I feel used or caught in circumstances beyond my control. Thank You for seeing me and for being a God who protects the vulnerable.

Reflection: Are there parts of my story where I feel "defined" by a trauma or a situation I didn't choose? How can I give those to God today?

Tuesday - Day 2: Mourning and Moving Forward

Focus: "When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house..." (2 Sam 11:26-27) Bathsheba experienced profound loss—her husband and, eventually, her first child. She shows us that even in the middle of a scandal, there is a "time of

mourning" that must be respected before a new chapter can begin.

Opening Prayer: Father, comfort me in my losses. Help me to mourn well and to trust that even when life feels broken, You are still the God who walks with me through the valley.

Reflection: Am I rushing through my "time of mourning" to get to the next thing, or am I allowing God to heal the deep wounds first?

Wednesday - Day 3: The Gift of Solomon (Restoration)

Focus: "Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba... she gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him." (2 Sam 12:24) Out of the ashes of a tragic beginning, God brought forth "Solomon" (meaning Peace). God's love for the child was a sign of His grace toward the mother. He is a God who restores what the locusts have eaten.

Opening Prayer: Lord, thank You for the "Solomons" in my life—the gifts of peace and joy that come after a season of pain. I praise You for being a God of second chances.

Reflection: Where have I seen God bring "peace" out of a situation that originally felt like "chaos"?

Thursday - Day 4: From Victim to Advocate

Focus: "Nathan asked Bathsheba... 'Have you not heard that Adonijah... has become king, and our lord David knows nothing about it?'" (1 Kings 1:11). Later in life, Bathsheba moved from being a passive figure to an active participant. She worked with the prophet Nathan to ensure God's promise for her son was fulfilled. She found her voice and used it for the sake of the kingdom.

Opening Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me the wisdom and the voice to advocate for the truth. Help me to move from a place of "happening to me" to a place of "happening through me" for Your glory.

Reflection: In what area of my life is God calling me to step up and speak for the promises He has made to my family or community?

Friday - Day 5: The Honor of the Queen Mother

Focus: "When Bathsheba went to King Solomon... the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her... he had a throne brought for the king's mother." (1 Kings 2:19) Bathsheba ended her life with great honor. The woman once "taken" was now the woman "bowed to." God is able to change our social standing and restore our dignity in ways we never expected.

Opening Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You are the lifter of my head. I trust You to restore my reputation and my dignity as I walk in faithfulness to You.

Reflection: Do I believe that God can restore my "throne" or my place of honor, even if my story started with a "mess"?

Saturday - Day 6: The Lineage of Grace

Focus: "David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife... and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus..." (Matthew 1:6, 16) Matthew's genealogy doesn't hide Bathsheba's past (calling her "Uriah's wife"), yet she is one of only four women listed in the lineage of Jesus. Her story is permanently woven into the Gospel.

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You that my "mess" can become part of Your "Messiah" story. I am amazed that You use unlikely people to bring Your greatest blessings to the world.

Reflection: Knowing that God included someone with Bathsheba's complex history in His family tree, what does that say about His willingness to include me?