



Article Title— "The Bathsheba Affair"

Article Category— "Dirty Laundry"

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Was that 10th-Century-BC roof-bathing bombshell, Bathsheba, kidnapped and raped? There's a rumor afoot that says she was. It was clearly a man's world then and such things were common. You can bet your bottom dollar that many fair ladies were kidnapped and raped to mark their conscription into king's harems and brothels and such. Pimpory was alive and well then, too. By contrast, our 21st-Century-AD world is arguably a woman's world. Yeah; I know: there are lots of exceptions and that's precisely why I've noted that it's *arguable*. Anyhow, we may be wise to examine the pertinent "kidnapped and raped" assertion from both perspectives.

To refresh your memory, why not read the story for yourself. It's in the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel starting, I think, at chapter 11. While you're at it, you may also do well to recall multiple other examples of "dirty laundry" that God has clearly intended for us to know about and understand. For example, do you recall having read about the time when Abraham instructed his wife, Sarah, to tell a pagan king that she was his sister? The only rationale I can fathom for that is...well, I think you know: (She *was* his half-sister and that was apparently okay back then, too.) Have you read and understood the first several verses of Genesis 6? Do you know how Judah and Tamar, the parents of all genetic Jews, got together? And how about Genesis 9:21-24? Does that describe a homosexual encounter?

Where can you get straight answers to all those questions you have, but are afraid to ask? Unless the church you go to is extremely rare, you'll never get them there. Where you CAN get them is from our Online Bible Study Series. Here's the link to that: <https://www.link1.info/online-study>. Among the characteristics of the visible church that I personally find distasteful is its passive-aggressive avoidance of Q&A on issues like these. They're the obvious questions that inevitably occupy the minds of intelligent folk, so why NOT explore them collaboratively?

If God had not intended for you to get the answers, why do you think He would've included those stories in His written Word? Then why should WE be such prudes? "My people are destroyed for lack of [righteousness?] [regular church attendance?] [holiness?] [believing "what 'we' believe"?] [faith] [sincerity?] [worship?] [hyperspirituality?] [prayer?] [becoming full time paid professional christians?] [getting "truly 'saved'?"] knowledge..." —Hosea 4:6

The Bathsheba Affair

Roof bathing was a common practice in the 10th-Century-BC Middle East. Single story houses were the order of the day. The typical roof featured a short masonry wall around its perimeter, for privacy. Kings houses were almost never of the single story variety. Kings often, thence, became voyeurs – intentionally or unintentionally. Was David's voyeurism of the intentional or the unintentional sort? Because he was clearly guilty of malicious adultery *and* murder, that question is both legitimate and fair. Did Bathsheba seduce David by unveiling her lovely nakedness within the full daylight view of the king's residence, or was that just a brief, accidental exposure? You won't find those answers in the Bible or even in our Online Bible Study series.

We won't know if the beautiful Bathsheba wanted to attract David's attention until we get to heaven. By extrapolation, we also cannot know if David was guilty of kidnapping and rape. I think there's good reason to presume, however, that most any sensible person of noble intent (male or female) would've found 3-4 sheets, blankets or curtains to hang around that bathing space.

Naaahhh...I couldn't let our guy, TC Newsome, near this one: He's much too dignified, ya'know.

—Scribe pro tem

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! <https://www.link1.info/contact-us>.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



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