



[2 Samuel 12:9-14](#)

(9) Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. (10) 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. (11) Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. (12) For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. (13) And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. (14) Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

King James Version

Regardless of how successful a person might consider himself in getting away with his adventure into [sin](#), he could learn a few things from [David](#). First, however, we must note [Numbers 32:23](#): "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out." Interestingly, the context of this verse is a warning to those who may not be faithful to their words of promise.

Overall, this story is a quick study into cause and effect. First, it teaches that, regardless of one's status, [adultery](#) cannot be committed without damaging relationships anymore than [murder](#) can be committed without damaging relationships. It does not matter whether the perpetrator is a prince or pauper. The only variable is the speed with which the effect takes place. We should never forget the warning given in [Genesis 2:17](#): "In the day you eat of [the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil] you shall surely die." The wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)) no matter which commandment is broken.

Second, besides death, sin produces two effects that may also manifest slowly:

1. *A damaged relationship with God.* [Isaiah 59:1-2](#) shows that sin creates division between [God](#) and us because of the breach of trust. Sin is a breaking of the terms of the covenant agreed on by both God and us. After committing a sin like adultery, can the individual be trusted any longer? This effect is not easily seen, but God's Word nonetheless reveals it does occur. As this episode shows, with [repentance](#) and God's [merciful forgiveness](#), the division can be healed.

2. *Evil results in our lives in this world.* Even with God's forgiveness, this second effect remains and must be borne by the sinner—andtragically, by those sinned against. For example, the evil effects of David's sin brought death—either directly or indirectly—to five people. It directly caused the deaths of Uriah and the newborn son of David and Bathsheba. In addition, it greatly intensified the ultimately deadly competition between Absalom, Amnon, and Adonijah, all of whom died violently. With the dishonorable example of their father before their eyes, it could only teach disrespect, even for those closest to them.

Thus, the throne fell to Solomon. He never had to live through the kind of family life that David's older children did. When he committed similar sins, he could never say that he saw his father do the same things.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Seventh Commandment](#)

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