



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

(9) Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. (10) Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' (11) "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. (12) You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.' " (13) Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. (14) But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."

New International 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:

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 2 Samuel 12:9-14 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

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](#)

Related Topics:

[Absalom](#)

[Adonijah](#)

[Adultery](#)

[Amnon and Tamar](#)

[Cause and Effect Principle](#)

[Cause and Effect, Spiritual](#)

[Damaged Relationship with God](#)

[David and Bathsheba](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 2 Samuel 12:9-14 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

[Death as Wages of Sin](#)

[Relationship with God](#)

[Relationship with God, Damaged](#)

[Sin Causes Death](#)

[Sin Causes Separation from God](#)

[Sin will find you out](#)

[Solomon](#)

[Tamar and Amnon](#)

[Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil](#)

[Wages of Sin](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)
New International Version copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#)