

LIVING GODS WILL

Prophet of God

NATHAN



King David rebuked by the Prophet Nathan

by Lambert Jacobsz

Born: Judah

Died: Unknown

Nathan was a **court prophet and advisor** to King David.

Nathan spoke for **God** to King David.

Nathan authored the **book of Nathan** about King David and Solomon.

Nathan helped **Solomon** become **successor** to King David.

Nathan was a prophet in the Bible who lived during the reign of **King David** in Israel.

God spoke to David through **Nathan** on several occasions. **Nathan** was a member of David's royal court and one of his closest advisers.

Nathan apparently also knew **Bathsheba** well enough to speak to her about **Adonijah's** attempt to usurp David's throne from her son, **Solomon** (**1 Kings 1:11**) and to enlist her help in bringing the matter to the king.

There are three or four stories in the Bible featuring **Nathan** that occurred during some of the darkest and most emotional times in David's life.

The first mention of **Nathan** establishes his relationship with **David** as a trusted adviser. David decides to build **God** a house, because the king is living in a beautiful cedar palace and thinks it wrong that the Ark of the Covenant should be housed in a lowly tent (the tabernacle).

David tells **Nathan** about his plans to build a house for **God**, and **Nathan** says he should go ahead and do it because the **Lord** is with him (**2 Samuel 7:2-3**). Then **God** visits **Nathan** in a vision and tells him to return to David and inform him that **God** doesn't need the king to build him a house; rather, **God** would establish David's dynasty, through his son, forever.

His son **Solomon** would be the one to build **God's** house (**2 Samuel 7:4-17**). **Nathan** relays this important message to the king, and David utters a grateful and beautiful prayer to **God** for His grace (**2 Samuel 7:18-29**).

The next time **Nathan** is mentioned, it is after David had committed adultery with **Bathsheba** and brought about her husband's death to hide her pregnancy (**2 Samuel 12:1**). At that point, David had made Bathsheba his wife and had seemingly gotten away with his sin, but the **Lord** knew about it and told **Nathan** to rebuke David.

Nathan went to David and wisely told the king a fable about a rich man and a poor man: the rich man was visited by a traveler, so he took the poor man's only possession, a little ewe lamb that he loved as a pet, to feed his guest—rather than taking a lamb from his own extensive flocks.

David was enraged at the story and declared that the rich man had no pity and deserved to die. **Nathan** then points to David and says, "**You are the man!**" (**2 Samuel 12:7**). **Nathan** reveals that David's sin was like that of the rich man, because David took away **Uriah's** wife. **Nathan** then prophesies to David, in **God's** own words:

"I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife" (**2 Samuel 12:7-10**).

David confesses to **Nathan** that he has sinned against the **Lord**, and **Nathan** comforts him, saying that the **Lord** has forgiven his sin and that David's life will not be required of him. Nonetheless, David's child by Bathsheba was to die. David, under inspiration of the **Holy Spirit**, pens **Psalms 51** after this encounter with **Nathan** the prophet.

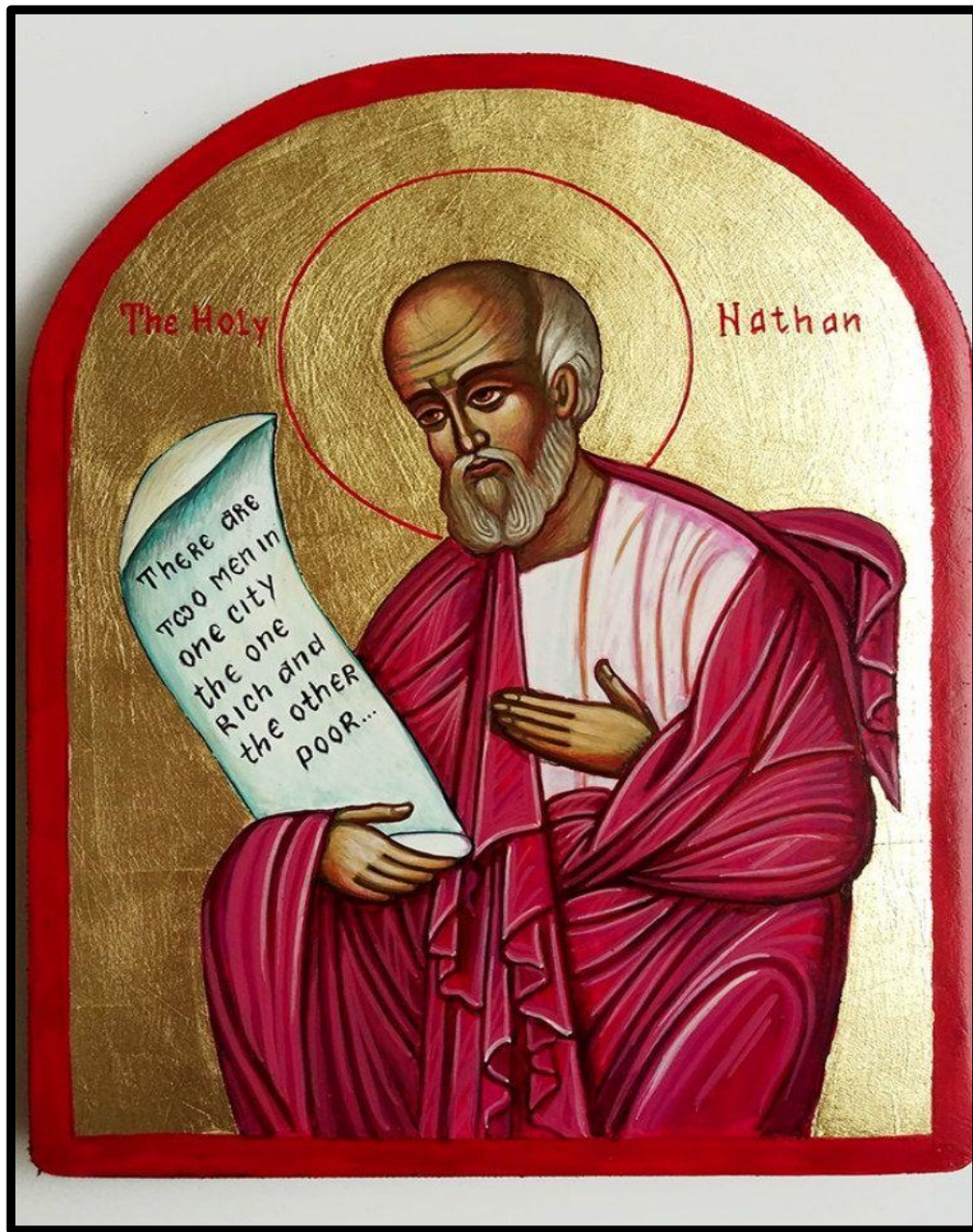
After the death of David's child, his wife Bathsheba became pregnant again, this time with a son whom they named **Solomon**. The **Lord** sent **Nathan** to David again, this time to say that the **Lord** loved his son Solomon, and they called Solomon "**Jedidiah**," a name that means "**beloved of the Lord**" (**2 Samuel 12:24-25**). Solomon later built **God's** house, the temple, and became an ancestor of the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

First Chronicles 3:5 reveals the fact that King David and Queen Bathsheba named one of their sons born to them in Jerusalem "**Nathan**." No doubt, the child's name is a reflection of the royal couple's appreciation for the prophet **Nathan's** faithfulness, friendship, and tough love through the years.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 1:11-12 So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it? Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

2 Samuel 7:4-5 But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?"



The Prophet Nathan