

2 Samuel 11-12: Character Assassination

"If 1 Sam 9-10 was a meditation on the rights and duties of the prophet as they pertain to the rights and duties of the king ...2 Sam 11-12 is a meditation on the modes and functions of messengers as they pertain to the rights and duties of kings" (Robert Polzin, *David and the Deuteronomist*)

A structure of 2 Samuel 11-12

OPENING FRAME: 11:1: the **opening of battle against the Ammonites**, with sedentary King David at home in Jerusalem, sending Joab to fight

11:2-5: **David and Bathsheba: conception** of unnamed child

11:6-15: David and Uriah (*framed by messages to Joab about Uriah*): **Uriah lies on the ground and won't eat**

11:16-25: **David and Joab** (via messengers)

11:26-27: **Bathsheba goes to David:** "YHWH saw that it was evil"

12:1-14: **YHWH sends Nathan to David:** the parable and response

12:15-23: **David and YHWH:** the dying and mourning of the "love child":

David lays on the ground and won't eat

12:24-25: **David and Bathsheba: conception** and birth of Solomon

CLOSING FRAME: 12:26-31: the **closing of battle against the Ammonites**, with Joab calling King David from Jerusalem to fight