

David & Bathsheba

Based on 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Story 5

One time, in the spring, the time of year when kings go to war, David sent his army to fight...But David stayed behind.

Late one afternoon David got out of bed after taking a nap and went for a stroll on the **roof of the palace**. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a beautiful woman taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is **Bathsheba**, the wife of one of your most trusted soldiers." Then David sent for her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. Then she returned home. Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent a message to David to let him know, and there was no doubt that the baby was his.

So David sent word to the commander of his army, to send her husband home. When he arrived, David asked Bathsheba's husband how the war was going. Then he told him to go home and relax but he didn't go home. He stayed that night at the palace entrance with some of the king's other servants. When David heard what he had done, he asked him, "...Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" He replied, "The army is sleeping out in the fields. How could I go home and relax?" So David told him to stay another night. David invited him to dinner and got him drunk, but even then he couldn't get the soldier to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance.

So the next morning David wrote a letter to the commander of his army and gave it to Bathsheba's husband to deliver. The letter told the commander, "Place this soldier on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." So, the commander did as he was told. And Bathsheba's husband was killed along with several other soldiers.

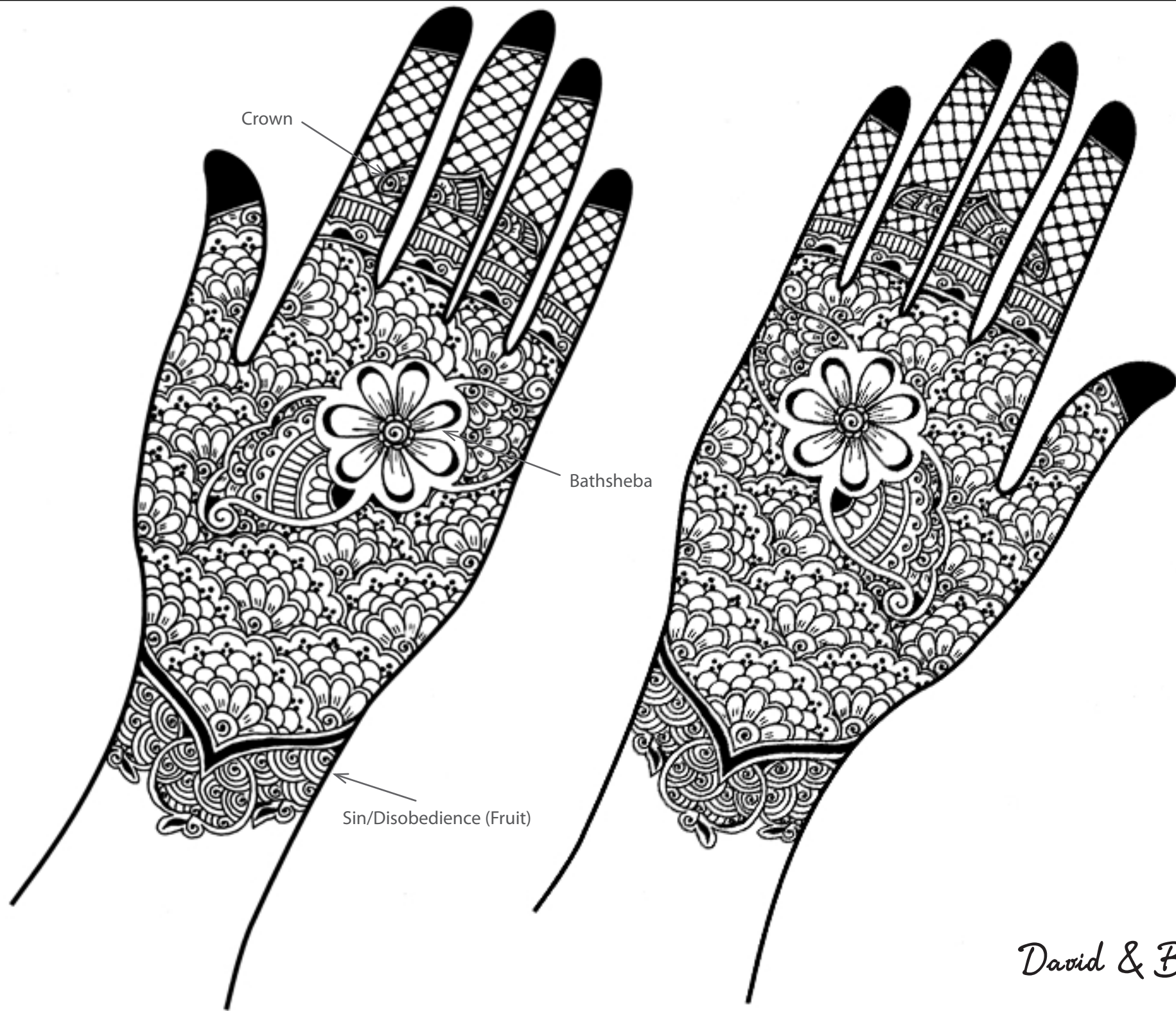
Then the commander of the army sent a messenger with a battle report to David. He told him that Bathsheba's husband had been killed along with others. "Well, tell the commander not to be discouraged," David said. "People are killed in battle! Fight harder next time!"

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. When the period of mourning was over, David brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Later she gave birth to a son. But God was very displeased with what David had done.

Drawing Elements: Crown, Bathsheba, Sin/Disobedience (fruit)

Drawing Note: The crown represents David on the roof and the fruit represents their sin.





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