

# Weekly Word

June 9, 2008

By Mary Ruth Stone

## Devotion

### Son of Forgiveness

David and Solomon were a great father and son succession team to the throne of Israel and Judah! David was the king by which others are judged. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. Yet Solomon would never have been born without the forgiveness and mercy of God toward his parents.

David married several wives and fathered several sons. It is interesting that his successor was the son of Bathsheba with whom he committed adultery. Why not Abigail, for example? We have no way of knowing the answer to that question. We *do* know that God is merciful and ready to forgive.

The story of David's adultery and complicity in the death of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, is well known to Bible readers. The story of his repentance is just as familiar. Nathan the prophet came to David with a parable about a man with many sheep who stole the only sheep of a poor man. David was livid and was prepared to put the thief to death. Nathan's response was, "You are the man! . . . Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight?" (2 Samuel 12:7, 9).

David immediately repented. "So David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die'" (2 Samuel 12:13).

Psalms 51 is a song of repentance that David wrote after the confrontation with Nathan. His opening words were a plea for mercy. He prayed for cleansing and took full responsibility for his sin. He offered God ". . . a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart . . ." (vs. 17).

God heard David's prayer of repentance and forgave his sin. Bathsheba found a place in the genealogy of Christ listed in Matthew 1:6: "David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah." Solomon lives in history as the wisest man and richest king who ever lived. As the Queen of Sheba said regarding Solomon, ". . . the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard" (1 Kings 10:7).

The mercy and grace of God are unfathomable.

## Scripture

"So David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die'"

(2 Samuel 12:13).

## This 'n That

*"What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."*

*— Old Hymn*

## Prayer

Dear Lord,

Cleanse me from my sin and make me useful to the Kingdom. Amen.

Seeking,  
Mary Ruth