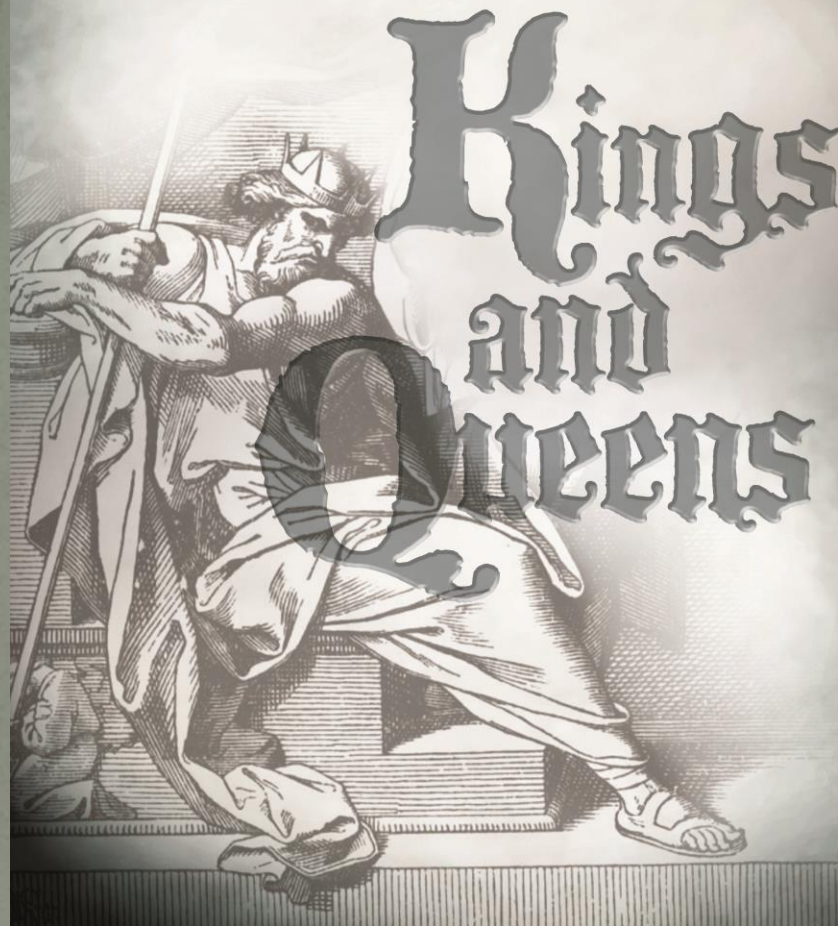


The Rise and Fall of Israel's Monarchs



<http://goodnewsbiblestudies.com>

# King David

## Part III

---

David as King  
The Later Years

# David's Sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)

- David would have probably been somewhere between 50-55 years old by this time and served as King for about 20 years or so.
  - 1) David experienced many successes during this time, built a prosperous kingdom, and caused many surrounding nations to fear him.
  - 2) As the kingdom began to grow, the surrounding vassal states (non-Israelites people groups/nations under the authority of David), as well as other subdued nations and enemies, made treaties with David. These treaties often resulted in marriages or the receiving of women into David's harem (concubines) which instead of satisfying his sexual desires....only made them worse!



## David's Sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)

- 3) During David's first 20 years he continued to fight many battles and was away from home often. This resulted in all sorts of domestic failures at home, both for the nation, as well as in his personal family.
- 4) It is concluded by many scholars that this neglect of things at home, along with not completely following the teachings of scripture (Deut. 17:14-17), are what drove David into a cycle of sin that he struggled to break free from.
- 5) David's decisions to be unaccountable made him vulnerable to the very thing that made him such a notable person. His pursuit of righteousness (a man after God's own heart), and integrity was blindsided by pride and arrogance because he didn't allow himself to keep it in check!

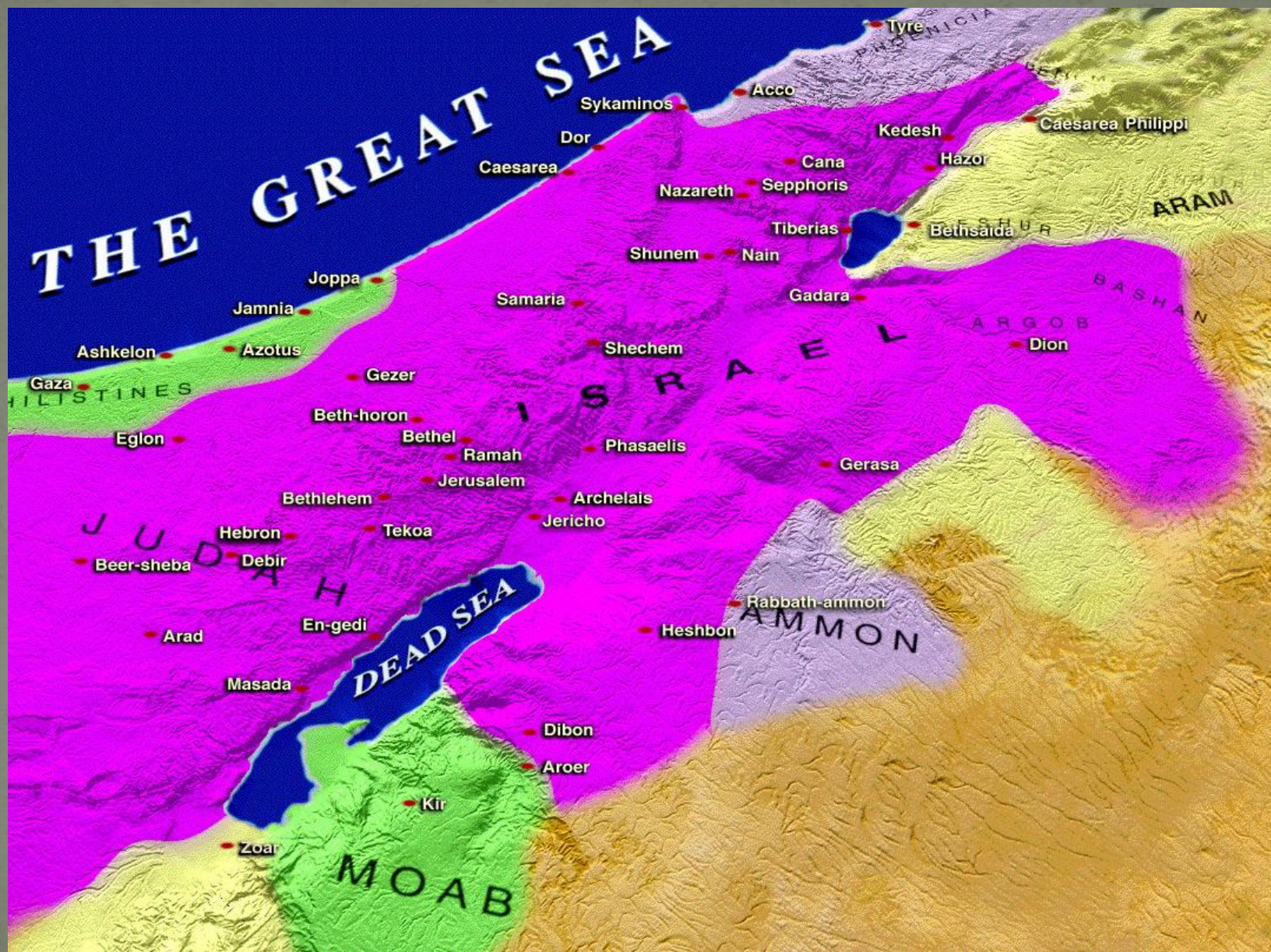
## David's Sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)

- Three very notable Proverbs come to mind at this time (Prov. 11:2, 16:18, 29:23)
  - 1) “When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom”
  - 2) “Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before stumbling”
  - 3) “A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor”

## David's Sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)

- What was David doing in bed instead of being on the battlefield?
  - 1) David had decided that it was time to resume the battle against the Ammonites
  - 2) “Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. **But David stayed at Jerusalem.**” (II Samuel 11:1).







## David's Sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)

- What was David doing in bed instead of being on the battlefield?
  - 3) The decision to do battle in the **spring** would have been consistent with the military operations of the day. The kings of that era often **waited for the “latter rains” to cease** before attacking one another. They didn't have some of the modern tools for “foul weather” that are at our disposal today.
  - 4) Instead of going into battle himself, David sent Joab to lead the troops against the city of Rabbah (the capitol of Ammon). It would have been an unusual decision on David's part not to lead the charge. We are not told the reasons why he remained in Jerusalem, but he may have had ulterior motives of lust.



## David's Sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)

- What was David doing in bed instead of being on the battlefield?
  - 5) “Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance” (II Samuel 11:2)
  - 6) We don't know the motives of Bathsheba's heart but many conclude from the text that she was not an innocent party either and may well have desired to entice David.....we don't know for sure. What we do know is that David wasted no time in satisfying his lust and he sleeps with Bathsheba, thus committing adultery with her. (II Samuel 11:3-5)

## The cover up (II Samuel 11:6-27)

- David's act of adultery (sleeping with another man's wife) with Bathsheba brought about serious consequences – as Bathsheba becomes pregnant.
- Instead of confessing his sin, repenting before the Lord and taking responsibility for his actions, David makes even further unwise decisions.



## The cover up (II Samuel 11:6-27)

- 1) David initially attempts to bring Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) home from battle in the hopes that Uriah would sleep with Bathsheba and when the child was born he would just assume the child was his. (II Samuel 11:6-13)
- 2) Uriah (ethnically – a Hittite), was honored that the King of Israel had extended such favor to him, but as a loyal soldier he was unwilling to accept special treatment and chose not to return home and sleep with his wife.

## The cover up (II Samuel 11:6-27)

- 3) David even attempted to get Uriah drunk to go home and be with his wife. That plan failed which then caused David to put Uriah in harm's way on the battlefield so that he would be killed making David complicit in his death.
- 4) The death of Uriah on the battlefield allowed David to marry Bathsheba and thus cover up their act of infidelity and in turn attempt to remove any suspicion that the child was not his.



The cover up (II Samuel 11:6-27)

The actions of David were *displeasing* in the sight of the Lord and David would experience a number of challenges and consequences resulting from his sin. He would also fall under judgment from the Lord.

## The cover up (II Samuel 11:6-27)

“Now when the wife of Uriah the Hittite heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. When the time of mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord”

(II Samuel 11:26-27)



## The cover up (II Samuel 11:6-27)

The child conceived as a result of David and Bathsheba's sin becomes terminally ill and dies. As tragic as this was there was more pain and challenges to come in David's life. (II Samuel 12:15-23)

# King David

## Part III

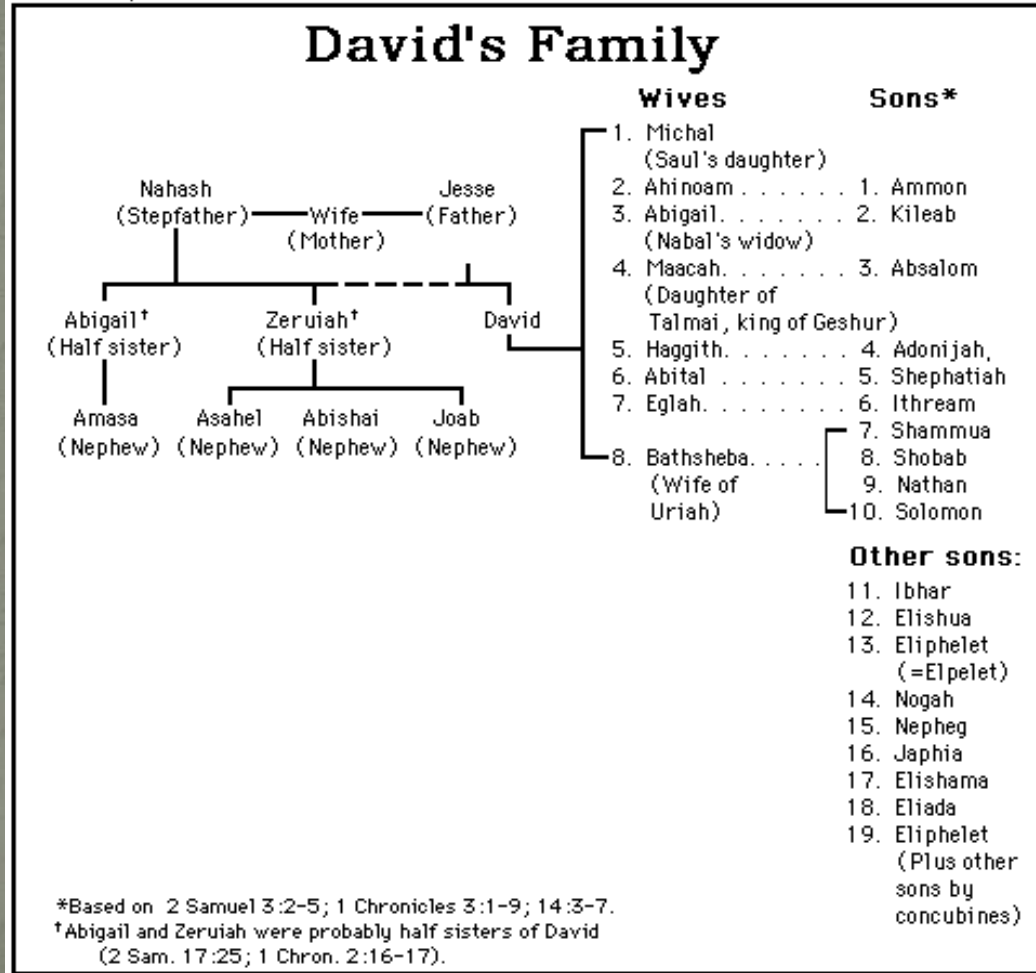
---

### David's Challenges with Absalom



David's multiple wives and multiple concubines will allow him to have several children but this will continue to be a source of challenge for him.

(BKC [OT] p. 460)



## David's Challenges with Absalom

- Bathsheba will give birth to Solomon (II Samuel 12 :24-25)
- David's son **Amnon** will sleep with David's daughter **Tamar** the sister of **Absalom**. (II Samuel 13:1-20)
- This will create animosity and hatred between **Absalom** and **Amnon**
- David's lack of action against Amnon for raping and defiling his half-sister will cause Absalom to take matters into his own hands. Absalom will kill Amnon causing great division between himself and David. David will send Absalom into exile.



# David's Challenges with Absalom

2. After a period of time passes (approx. 3 years), David will allow Absalom to return from exile to Jerusalem but his estrangement from his father lasted for another 2 years which only continued to foster resentment between Absalom and his father.

# David's Challenges with Absalom

“Then the king said to Joab, behold now, I will surely do this thing; go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom. Joab fell on his face to the ground, prostrated himself and blessed the king; then Joab said, today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, O my lord, the king, in that the king has performed the request of his servant. So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. However the king said, let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom turned to his own house and did not see the king's face”

(II Samuel 14:21-24)



## David's Challenges with Absalom

- “Now Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem and did not see the king's face. Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. So he sent again a second time, but he would not come” (II Samuel 14:28)
- Absalom was persistent in wanting to be reconciled to his father although his ultimate motivation was to put himself back in a position of favor with his father and the people, with the ultimate goal of taking control of the throne of Israel.
- This temporary repentance by Absalom allowed him to gain the trust of his father and he began to build his loyal following of the people and his military might.

## David's Challenges with Absalom

“So when Joab came to the king and told him, he called for Absalom. Thus he came to the king and prostrated himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom” (II Samuel 14:33)



# David's Challenges with Absalom

- “Moreover Absalom would say, Oh that one would appoint me judge in the land, then every man who has a suit or cause could come to me for justice. And when a man came near to prostrate himself before him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him.” (II Samuel 15:4-5)
- **In this manner Absalom dealt with all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel” (II Samuel 15:6)**

# David's Challenges with Absalom

3. Absalom continues his deceitful actions he is able to build a loyal enough following that allows him to stage a coup-de-tat (an overthrow of David and his government) and he will seize control of the throne for a season of time.



# David's Challenges with Absalom

- “But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, Absalom is king in Hebron” (II Samuel 15:10)
- Then a messenger came to David saying, the hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom. David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, arise and let us flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom. Go in haste, or he will overtake us quickly and bring down calamity on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.” (II Samuel 15:13-14)

## David's Challenges with Absalom

This departure by David from Jerusalem not only allowed Absalom to briefly gain control but it also created a power vacuum and revived the former contentions and divisions that existed with the house of Saul and will lay the ground work for future clashes and divisions between the Northern Tribes of Israel and the Southern Tribes of Judah. (II Samuel 16:1-14)



# David's Challenges with Absalom

- Absalom will continue to drive the wedge even further between himself and his father by *sleeping* with David's concubines. (II Samuel 16:21-23)
- Absalom will gather his military forces together and sets out to *hunt* down his father and *kill* him. (II Samuel 17)

4. During the time that David is on the run from Absalom he writes a number of *Psalms* that describe his own agony and pain as well as his own personal repentance to the Lord.
- “I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about” (Ps. 3:5-6)
  - “My soul, wait in silence for God only, **for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold;** I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; **the rock of my strength, my refuge is God. Trust in Him at all times,** O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 62:5-8)



# King David

## Part III

---

Absalom's Final Demise  
(II Samuel 18)

- In spite of Absalom's sudden rise to power – his military forces and leaders were no match for those who commanded David's army. (II Sam. 18:1-8)
- Ironically as Absalom was attempting to flee (on a mule no less), his beautiful head of hair apparently became caught up in the branches of a tree. His mule kept on going which left him in an unusual predicament being suspended in midair with no way to defend himself or cut himself down.
- It will be Joab (one of David's supreme commanders) who will put an end to Absalom's life and his continued rebellion by thrusting 3 spears into him.



The loss of David's two sons  
(Amnon and Absalom) to a violent  
death serves as a reminder that the  
consequences of David's sin  
became an enormous source of  
grief and agony in his remaining  
years as King of Israel.

(II Samuel 18:33)

# King David

## Part III

---

David Restored As King  
(II Samuel 19-24)

1. After the death of Absalom, David works quickly to shore up any remaining divisions within the tribes of Judah and also sets out to win the hearts back of those who chose to follow Absalom.
2. David also will make assurances to Mephibosheth (Saul's grandson) and will restore the land that was in question to him and his family. This helped to rebuild trust with the house of Saul.
3. A delicate balance of trust (II Samuel 19:39-43) was created between the 10 northern tribes of Israel (the house of Saul) and the 2 southern tribes of Judah (the house of David) but it would once again fracture after the later death of David's son Solomon.



4. Due to the turmoil brought on by Absalom, it became necessary for David to suppress a couple of revolts, strengthen the borders, and squelch any attempts by the neighboring Philistines and Ammonite who tried to regain their military strength.
5. David (a man of war), desired to hand the kingdom over to Solomon with all disputes with its neighbors settled, and allow his son to build the Temple to the Lord.

6. The balance of David's reign will be spent in preparation for his son Solomon to succeed him as King of a United Israel.
- David will continue to write *Psalms* and various *poetic* pieces
  - David will conduct a *census* (something for which he suffers judgment and wrath from the Lord for doing) to probably establish an accurate count of the military strength that he would be handing off to his son. (I Chron. 21:1-17, II Sam. 24)
  - David will also gather most of the necessary supplies needed for the construction of the Temple that Solomon would later build. (I Chronicles 22:1-5)

# King David

## Part III

---

David Passes the Throne  
to His Son Solomon



“David said to Solomon, My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, you have shed much blood and waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.”

(I Chron. 22:7-8)

“Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a **man of rest**; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be **Solomon**, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever” (II Chronicles 22:9-10)

“Then King David said, call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came into the king’s presence. The king said to them, take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule and bring him down to Gihon. Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say Long live King Solomon! (I Kings 1:32-34)



“Then David slept with his fathers  
and was buried in City of David.  
The days that David reigned over  
Israel were forty years: seven years  
he reigned in Hebron and thirty  
three years he reigned in  
Jerusalem” (I Kings 2:10-11)