

Nathan: Hello old friend! How are you today, Gad?

Gad: Feeling the age of my bones, Nathan.

Nathan: Come sit with me and take a rest. We have a few minutes before the crowning of the new king.

Gad: Ah, the new king. Seems such a short time ago when Samuel was doing this same thing, does it not?

Nathan: It does. So much has happened since then. Do you remember when Abner tried to rescue the nations by selecting Saul's replacement as king?

Gad: *(shakes head)* Oh yes! *(laughing)* Now **that** was interesting.

Enter David and all the people.

David: Let your hands be strengthened for your master Saul is dead. The house of Judah has anointed me king over them.

Abner: **This** man David is not an adequate King. **I** have brought you Ish-bosheth, son of Saul. He will be our King.

Ish-bosheth not sure he wants to be king, but ½ people nod yes, ½ nod no.

People split - (house of Judah, follow David, nation of Israel, follow Ish-bosheth)

Gad: Ah, my friend. In those days, how often did the Lord our God rescue the nations?

Nathan: Yes, our God has always remained faithful, even when we have not.

Gad: Especially during those long times of war between the houses of David and Saul.

Nathan: You speak the truth, Gad. What was the motive for Abner when he went over to David?

Gad: Jealousy my friend . . . pure jealousy. It was obvious that God was with David and Abner wanted a piece of that Glory.

ISHBOSHETH: Abner, I heard a rumor that you are going to take one of my father's widows and make her your own wife. You know the king's wives are not allowed to remarry.

ABNER: Who cares about your silly rules?! Rizpah loves me and I love her. What's wrong with that?

ISHBOSHETH: I will not allow it!

ABNER: We'll see about that. I have fought many battles to keep you in power. If you are going to challenge me, I quit! Everyone knows God made David the next king. I think it's time I switched sides.

Abner goes and shakes David's hand. Joins David's army. Joab and other soldiers run in.

Joab: My king! Don't you realize what a traitor Abner will be?

Joab and soldiers chase after Abner. Exit.

David: Should Abner have died as the lawless die? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely.

All people sad.

Nathan: That was a sad time, wasn't it Gad?

Gad: Yes, it was. Joy and celebration did return when David was victorious over the Philistines.

Nathan: Although he was a bit concerned about a physical home for God. Do you remember the day the ox stumbled?

Gad: Not a good day for Uzzah. A fine example of why we should obey God.

DAVID: Assemble the troops to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem on a new cart.

UZZAH: Oh oh, the ark is about to fall! I'll just steady it!

Cart tilts, Uzzah touches, falls dead. All people gasp.

DAVID: How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me? Obed-edom, keep it at your house.

Obed-edom: A-a-a-as you wish, my king.

Nathan: After three months, the Lord blessed Obed-edom's family and all that belongs to him. So, David brought the ark into Jerusalem.

People bring ark to David.

Gad: God did make some wonderful promises to David, including his house and kingdom established and enduring forever.

David: Joab, bring me a military report. Jehosaphat, record this, please.

Jhosaphat: Yes sir. *(starts writing on scroll.)*

Joab: Well, there was the defeat of the Philistines. *(bring plunder to David)*

All together: We were rescued!

Joab: There was the taking of the Moabites. Now, they are servants in your kingdom. *(bring plunder to David)*

All together: We were rescued!

Joab: Soon after was that pesky Hadadezer, king of Zobah. We were able to capture a thousand of his chariots, seven thousand charioteers and twenty thousand foot soldiers. *(bring plunder to David)*

All together: We were rescued!

David: Splendid. What else?

Joab: Ah, yes - the twenty-two thousand Armeneans, the Edomites and Amalek. All in all, I'd say you have been successful, my king. *(bring plunder to David)*

All together: We were rescued!

David: Let us not forget that we owe all success to the one and only Lord God. He is the one who promised to rescue us from our enemies.

All together: Thanks be to our God.

David: Is there anyone left from the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?

Ziba and Mephibosheth step forward.

Ziba: There is a son of Jonathan, lame in both feet. His name is Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth: At your service.

David: Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan.

Mephibosheth: What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?

David: Ziba, you and your servants are to farm the land I am giving Mephibosheth. And he, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.

Ziba *(scowling)*: Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands.

Nathan: Ah, but alas. The fate of a sinful nation can last only a short time.

Gad: So true, my friend. What was on the mind of David, to not go to battle with his men that season?

Nathan: Evil rests in the minds of men, Gad. Even one as good as David.

Bathsheba: Hum, hum, hum, la, la, la

David double takes when he sees her. Looks around, thoughtful, then picks her up over his shoulder and carries her off. Enter Uriah, meets David with a letter. Uriah hands letter to Joab. Joab shakes head and takes Uriah with him to ready for battle. Uriah falls. Bathsheba cries.

Nathan: David!

David: Yes Nathan?

Nathan: Listen to this story. There was a rich man with many flocks. There was also a poor man with only one lamb, one that his children cared for and loved very much.

All people: Aaaaahhhh.

David: I miss the sheep. Oh, those were the days.

All people: Those lovely days.

Nathan: David! Stop daydreaming! Listen to me.

David: Yes sir.

Nathan: The rich man, in preparation for a fancy event, does not use one of his own sheep for the feast. Instead, he takes the poor man's sheep. What do you think of that?

All people: Wwwwhhhhhaaaattttt?

David: That makes me so angry! What kind of a man would do such a terrible thing?

Nathan: That man. . . would be . . . YOU! (mirror)

All people cover their mouths and look surprised.

Enter Bathsheba with baby.

Gad: Even with all the blessings God had given to David, bad life choices produced punishment for not only him, but all those around him.

Nurse comes in, takes baby, David and Bathsheba sad.

Nathan: I didn't want to tell him I told you so, but . . . I told him so. David knew he had done wrong and sought out the forgiveness of God.

Gad: Once again . . . he was rescued.

Nathan: How about those children of David's? Absalom was pretty crafty - he and his fancy chariot parading around the city.

Gad: Do you suppose anyone could see through his tactics to replace his own father as king?

ABSALOM: Good day, my friend. What brings you to Jerusalem?

A MAN: I have a legal matter to discuss with the king.

ABSALOM: I am afraid the king is running short on time, but I am sure your legal claims are in perfect order. Kings are just so . . . busy, you know.

A MAN: I should not try to see the king?

ABSALOM: Well, I have time to talk with ordinary folk - errr. . . uhmm - I mean countrymen like yourself. If I were king, I would make sure everyone got justice, and quickly!

A MAN: Prince Absalom, you are amazing. I bow before you.

ABSALOM: None of that bowing stuff! Just think of me as an honorary brother!

All people: Absalom! You should be our next king!

Nathan: So, here went David, running from his own wicked son.

David and his people chased by Absalom, then Absalom chased by David.

Absalom on donkey, gets stuck in a tree.

David: Save my son, Absalom!

Joab: *(blow the trumpet)* Bear no tidings for this day the king's son is dead.

David sad, sits on throne.

Gad: All the fighting, arguing, all the greed and rebellion of human nature.

Nathan: Not to mention the bad advice of supposed "wise men." *(do air quotes)* There were so many who desired what David had, yet they did not acknowledge that God is in control. He is the one who saves us.

Gad: But **only** when we **do** what he says.

David starts to count the men, Joab says no! David does it anyway. People line up and are counted.

David: *(look up to heaven)* The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.

Ishbosheth: my refuge

Joab: and my savior

Obed-Edom: I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise

Abner/Jehosaphat: and have been saved from my enemies.

Mephibosheth: He reached down from on high and took hold of me;

Bathsheba: he drew me out of deep waters.

Absolom: He rescued me from my powerful enemy

David: He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Gad: David, oh David. What an interesting life he has led. These lessons will stay with us forever.

Nathan: Are you ready to witness the crowning of the **new** king? I wonder what God has in store for him?

Gad: I know it can be written to create a whole new book, eeehh?

Nathan: IF **God** says it is so, my friend. Now help me up . . . *(Gad helps Nathan up from the chair, they walk off together.)*

Actors/actresses: **Kaylee** (*Obed-Edom 2/Ziba 3/Nurse 0*), **Sam** (*Nathan 20*), **Stanford** (*David 17*), **Quin** (*Absolom 5/Rizpah 0*), **Truett** (*Abner 4/Jehosaphat 2*), **Elyse** (*Mephibosheth 3/Uzzah 2*), **Etta** (*Gad 17*), **Gannon** (*Ish-bosheth 3/Man 3*), **Eli** (*Joab 6*), **Jazmyn** (*Bathsheba 2*)

Props: *2 chairs for prophets, staff, crown, throne, scepters, fighting weapons (swords, shields, spears, arrows), cart, oxen, ark, scroll, crutches or stick, bandages, plunder, letter, baby, donkey, tree, Absolom's hair, trumpet*

Scripture Reference: 2 Samuel