

MEET NATHAN, THE PROPHET.

There are about 4 to 5 people in the Bible named Nathan. The name means Gift or Given.

We are interested in Nathan the prophet in this case.

The Bible does not give the genealogy of Nathan to help us know more about his family.

Nathan was an official in the royal court, a close trusted advisor to David. Nathan appears in the Book of Samuel and Kings as well as in Chronicles. (**2 Sam 7; 2 Sam 12, 1 Kings 1 Chronicles 17**).

Some scholars think that the title of Nathan as a prophet is misleading, because his role was more of a politician than a prophet. It appears that Nathan has served during the reign of David as well as Solomon, which will make us to conclude that he was much younger than David.

And also, it appears that he has written books that are not in the Bible. (**1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29**)

There 3 episodes in which we see Nathan's significant role in the history of Israel.

1 Advising David on a building project. **2 Samuel 7**

Character: Humility: Willingness to come back to David and admit he was wrong.

Obedience: God has the final word, David should not build the house.

Trusted by God to see into the future of Israel

2 Send to rebuke David **2 Samuel 12**.

Character: Courage: risking his life in challenging the king

Wisdom and creativity: causing David to pass judgement on himself.

Stands against injustice in holding David accountable.

Application: God wants to use our courage, wisdom and creativity to bring restoration.

Then back to David again to announce that God was pleased with the birth of Salomon.

The name Jedidiah was to mark the words of God

3 Play significant role in the coronation of Solomon. **1 Kings 1**
Adonijah made himself king in Israel as David grew old and inactive. Nathan perceives a potential instability and possibly civil war.

He spoke to Bathsheba and then to David which led to Solomon being anointed as king, riding on David's horse.

Character: Wisdom and creativity.

Discerning and proactive: he took initiative to intervene in a critical situation.

Peace keeper and driven by God's word:

if there was a clash between Adonijah and Solomon, peace in Israel will be jeopardised.

Implication: Investing in the future by making Solomon king according to God's instructions. Israel saw prosperity during Solomon's reign.

Application: what actions am I taking today that is investing in the future or investing in others?