

Respect and Responsibility Educator Cohort Curriculum



SACRED SPACES

David and Batsheva in Art

— Rabbi Nelly Altenburger, Congregation Adath Israel

About This Curriculum

- This curriculum was made possible, in part, by funds granted by The Covenant Foundation.
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The Covenant Foundation

Alexander Ferrar, 2017

- Consider the title of the image
- What is the message in this picture?



The Last Kiss of Uriah and Bathsheba



James Tissot, 1836–1902

- What is the point of this picture?
- What is its main message?



David Sees Bathsheba Bathing



Unknown Artist, 1880

- What does the position of the characters tell you about the artist's understanding of the story?
- Look at what falls from David's hands. What do you make of it?
- Who else knows what's going on?

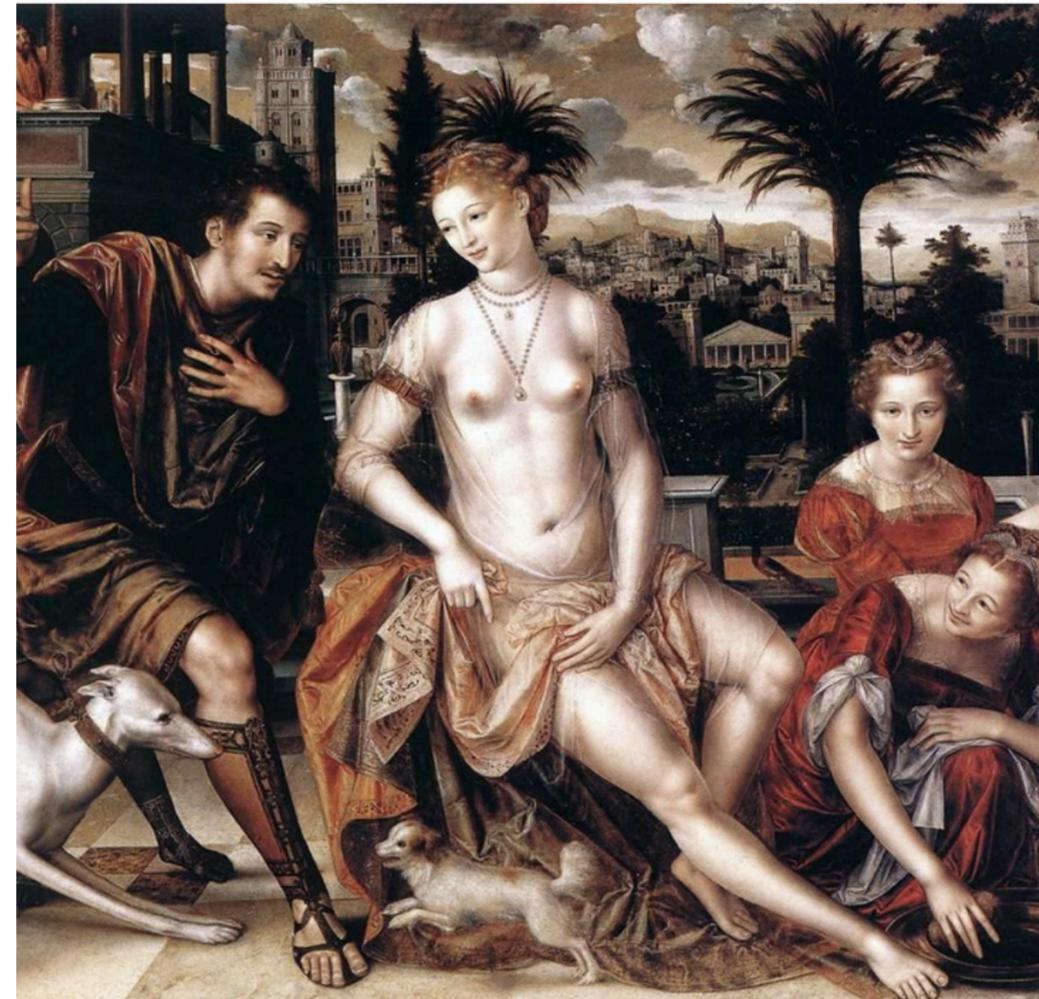


King David and Bathsheba, his future wife in the bath



Jan Massys, 1562

- Where is David? Where is Batsheva?
- Who are other people?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power?
- What is the function of the dogs?



Bathsheba with David's messenger, as the king watches from his roof



Paolo Veronese, 1575

- What do you think is going on with the people in the back of this picture?
- Look at the body positions of Bathsheva and David. What do they imply?



David and Bathsheba



Marc Chagall, 1979

- This is one of many Chagall pieces on David and Batsheva
- Where are other people? Who do they seem to be?
- What do the positions of the hands tell you about power differential?

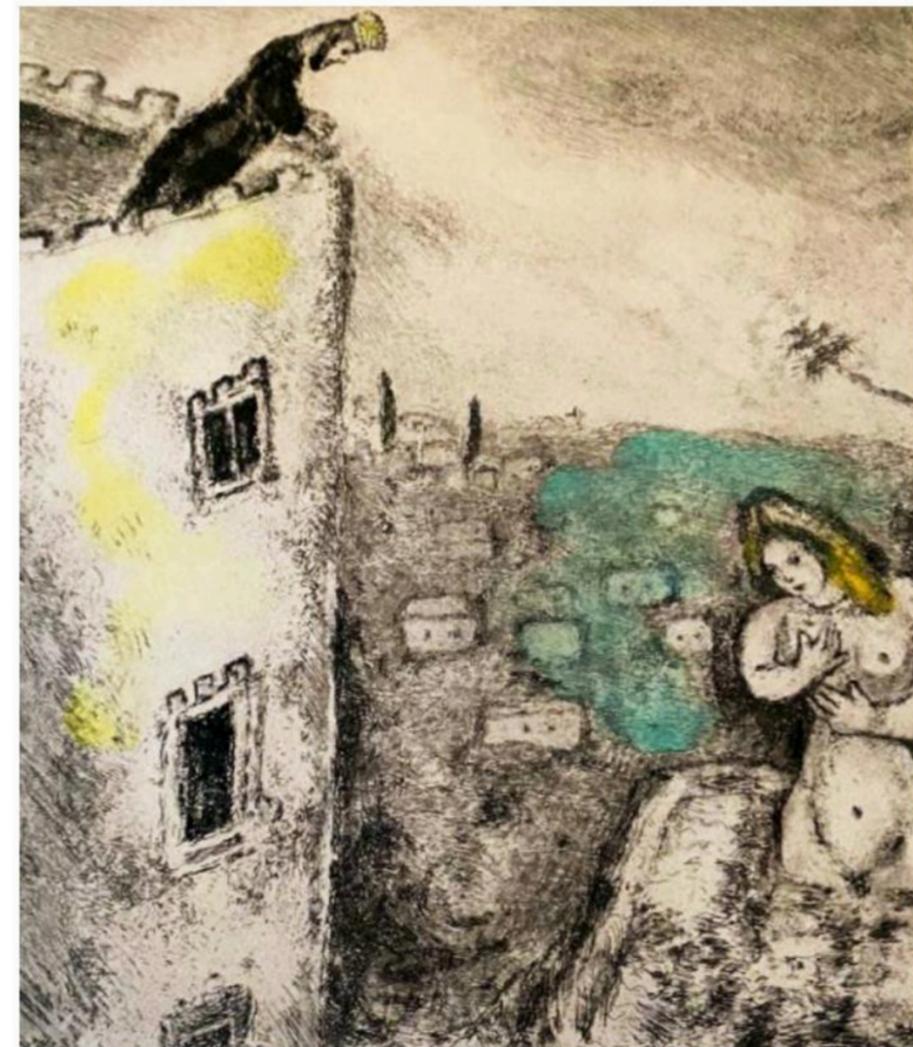


David and Batsheva



Marc Chagall, 1958

- Are there other people? Why?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power differential?

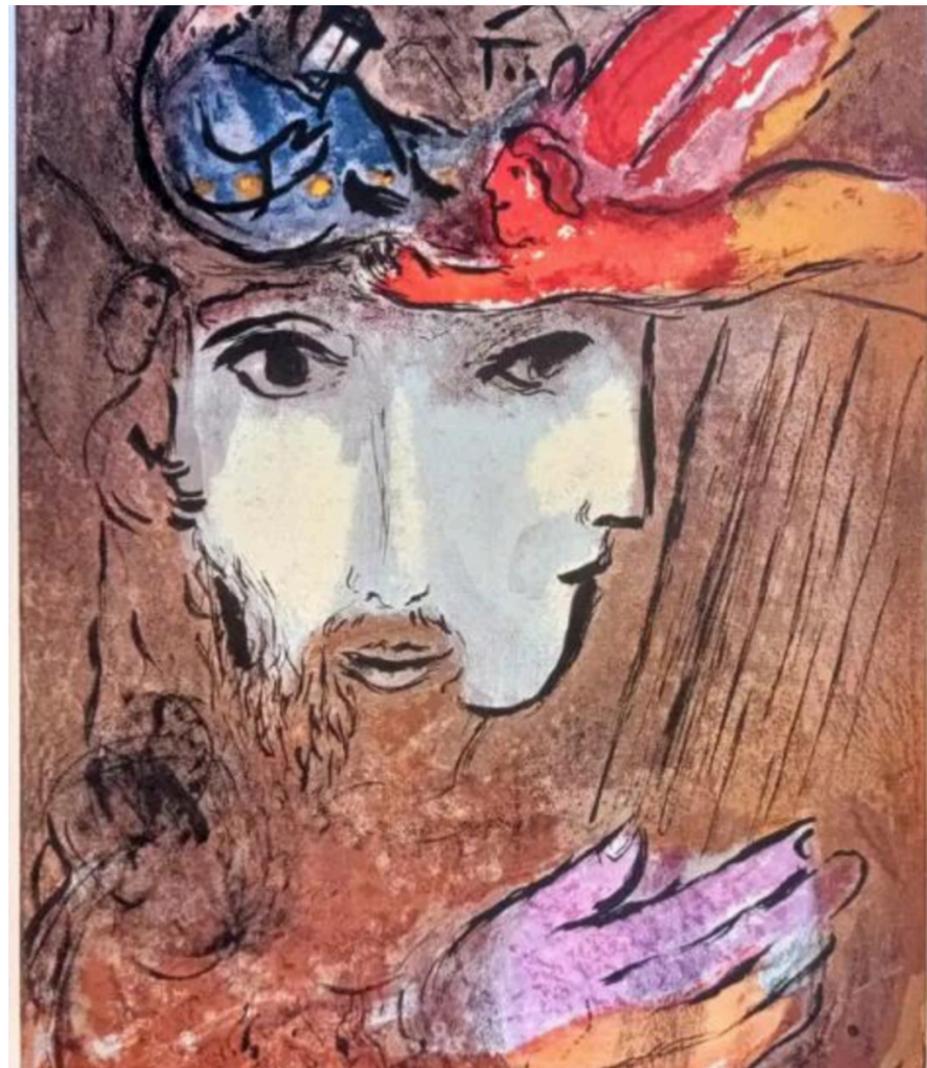


David and Batsheva



Marc Chagall, 1986

- What are the messages in this picture?
- Look at the use of colors. What do they imply?



David and Bathsheba



Henry Met de Bles, 1535~1540

- Where is David? Where is Bathsheva?
- Where are other people? Who do they seem to be?
- What do the positions of the people tell you about the story, from de Bles's eyes?
- What is the center, in this picture?



The Story of David and Bathsheba



Lucas Cranach the Elder, 16th century

- How old do David and Batsheva look?
- What do the positions of the hands tell you about this scene?
- What is the center, in this picture?



David and Bathsheba, the wife of Urias



Lucas Cranach the Elder, 16th century

- Where is David? Where is Bathsheva?
- Where are other people? Who do they seem to be?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power?
- What is the main message?



David and Bathsheba, the wife of Urias



Pieter Pietersz Lastman, 1583~1633

- What are the messages about David here?
- Who has doubts, in this scene? Why?



David sends Uriah



Michele Rocca, 1666~1751

- Where is David? Where is Batsheva?
- Where are other people? Who do they seem to be?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power?
- What is the main message?



David and Bathsheba



Paris Bordone, 1500~1571

- Where is David? Where is Batsheva?
- Look at the columns. Is there a message?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power?
- What is the center?



David and Bathsheba



Artemisia Gentileschi, 16th Century

- Where is David? Where is Batsheva?
- Look at the sky. Is there a message?
- Who are the other people, and what are they doing?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power?

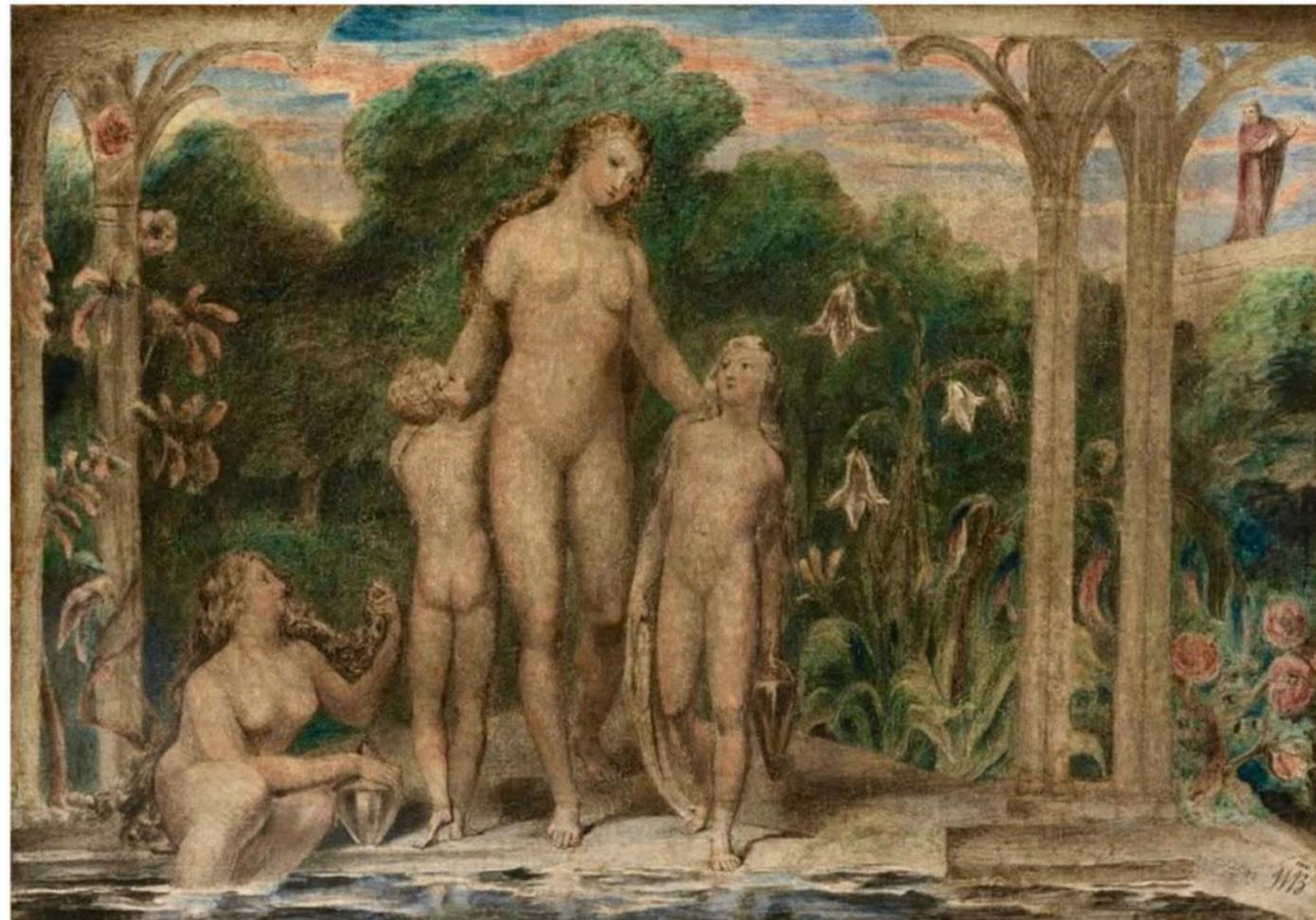


David and Bathsheba



William Blake, 19th Century

- Where is David? Where is Batsheva?
- Look at the flowers – there are three types with three different colors. Is there a message?
- Why did Blake add children?

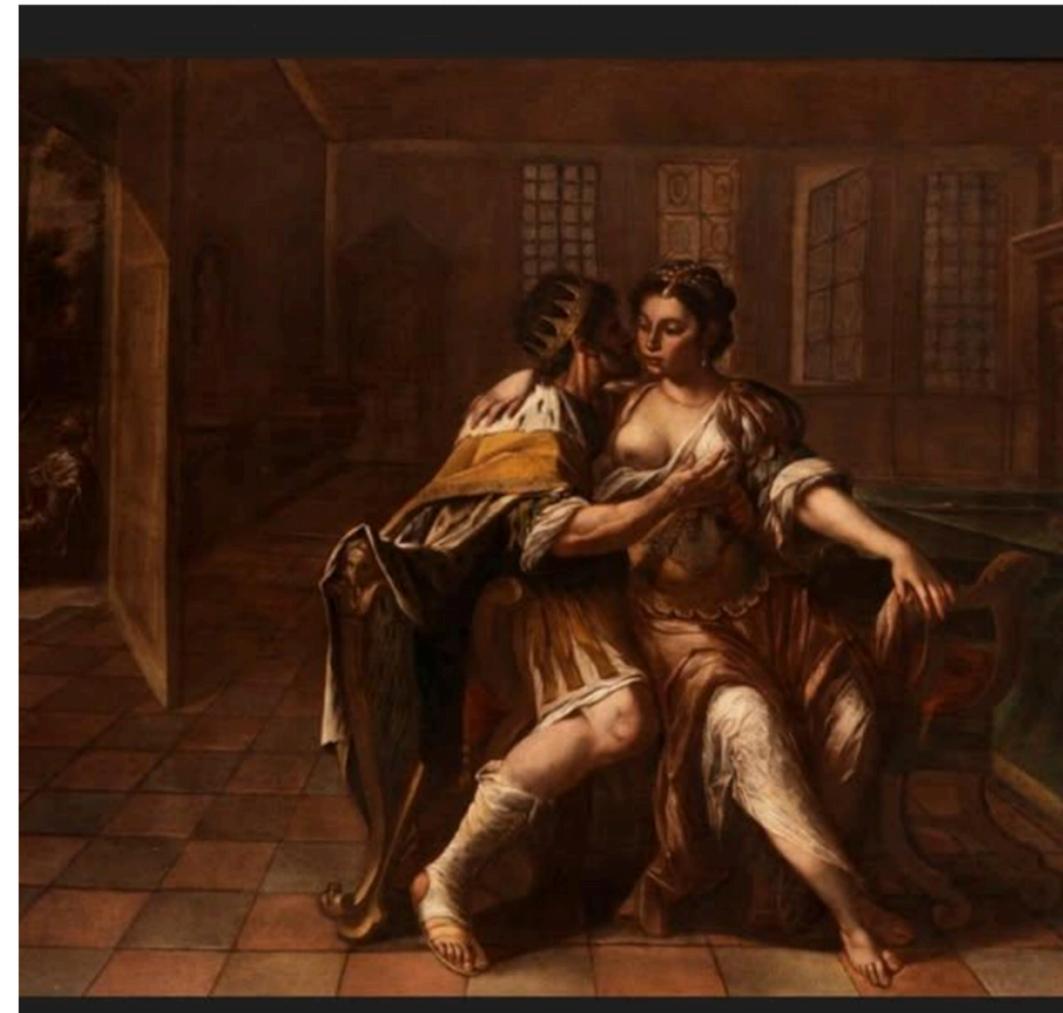


Bathsheba in her bath



Unknown, 17th Century

- What does this imply about the willingness of Batsheva?

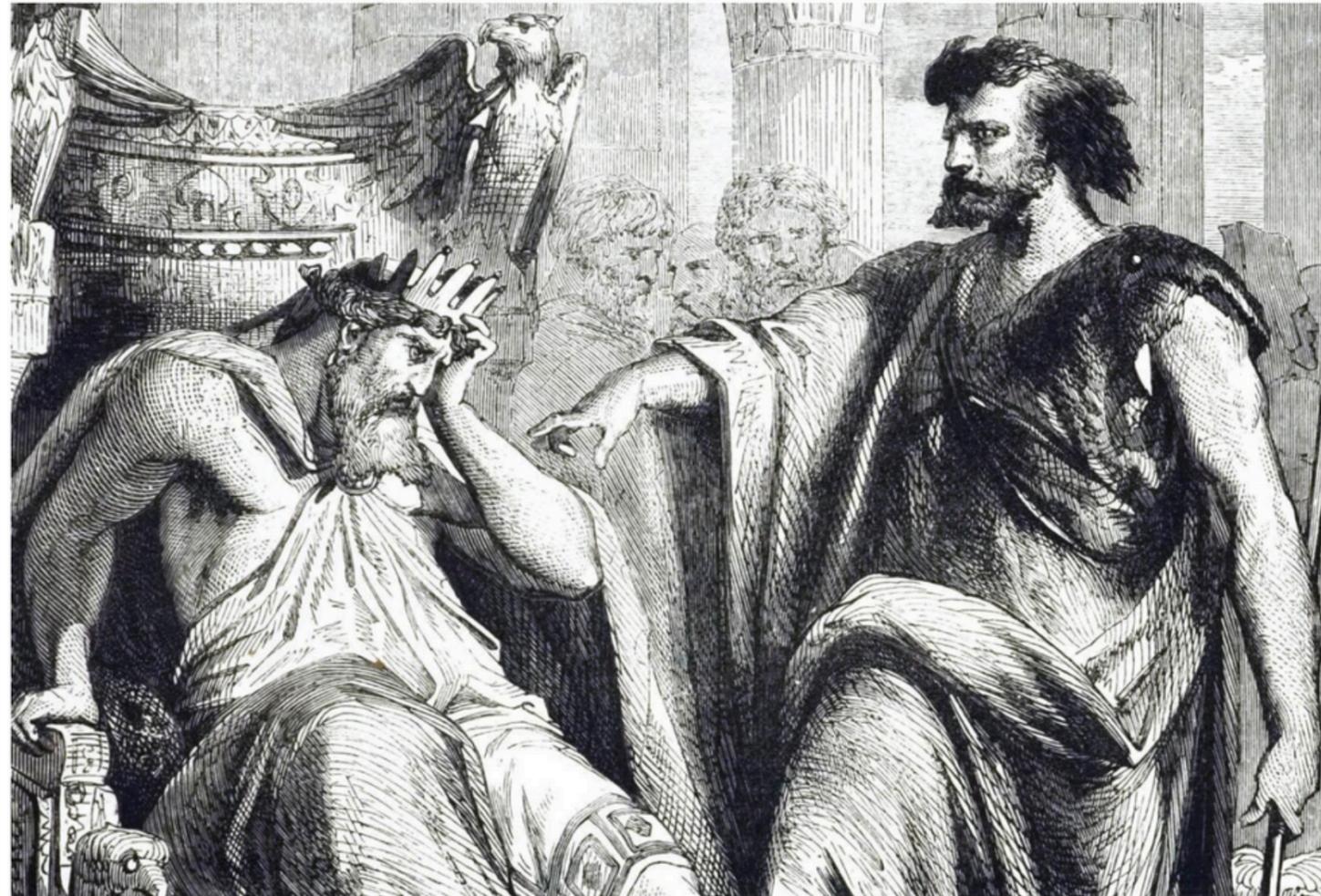


David begehrt Batseba



Unknown, 19th Century

- What are the messages about David here?
- What are the messages about Nathan?



King David being scolded by Nathan, the court prophet



Egbert Fisen, 1655~1733

- What are the messages about David here?
- What are the messages about Nathan?
- Who are the other characters? What do they mean?



Nathan reproaches David



Peter Rothermel, 19th Century

- Where is David? Where is Nathan?
- Where are other people? Who do they seem to be?
- What do the positions of the characters tell you about power?
- What is the main message?



The prophet Nathan speaking out against King David for his sin

