

BATSHEVA: VICTIM OR SHERO?

How does Bat Sheva transform from story one to story two?

Is she passive in the first story?

Is she the leader in the second?

What does Avishag the Beautiful represent?

Why does Natan pick Bat Sheva to help him?

Why does Natan not use his prophetic voice?

So why did Natan call her?

What is this story about Avishag?

What is the relationship of David and Batsheva?

Whom does Batsheva remind you of?

How do we see the development of Bat Sheva as a character?

Radak I Kings 1, 13

Natan knew that David swore to her, for he heard that from her, and why did he swear to her? For when the first child died Bat Sheva said, the boy died from the sin, and even if there will be another living son, they will demean him because he came to you through this sin at first and she didn't want to be with him until he swore to her that he will reign after him and he told her that it was based on prophecy

נשבעת לאמתך. יודע היה נתן שנשבע לה ששמע זה ממנה ולמה נשבע לה אמרו כי

כשמת הילד אמרה בת שבע הילד מת מפני העון אפילו יהיה לי ממך בן של קיימא יבוזו אותו אחיו מפני שבאתי אליך בעון מתחלה ולא רצתה להזקק לו עד שנשבע לה כי הבן שיהיה לו ממנה ראשונה ימלוך:
אחריו ואמר לה כי על פי הנבואה נאמר לו זה

Abarbanel

Bat Sheva included in her remarks 5 things which were helpful in getting to her goal. The first is all the pleas she makes from him as she said, My master... The second is the oath that he

obligated himself to and that it was in G-d's name and he swore it to her and that she mentioned exactly what his words were in first person, He will reign after "me".

The third thing is that she mentioned the evil ways of Adoniahuh in making himself king while his father was alive without his father's permission... And she said, he is king, in fact and you the king don't know so you have not violated your oath...

(Also she showed that Adoniahuh hated Shelomo because he didn't invite him.)

Fourth, she showed faith in him, that all of Israel is looking to him (are they?) to see who will be king. She did this to stir him up and to give him confidence that he should make Shlomo the king and not to fear the people. She only mentioned some of the people invited by Adoniahuh so he should not fear that everyone is on his side.

The fifth thing is how she included the fear that will come to Shelomo and his mother from the danger if Adoniyahu would reign.. that with the king's death Adoniyahu will seek an excuse to kill Bat Sheva and Shelomo, hinting that he could claim the sin of Bat Sheva and Uriah as a pretext and execute them on that basis, but if Shelomo will reign it will attest that it is from G-d.

David's sin

1. Uriah rebelled against David by not listening
2. Uriah divorced her in case he did not come back
3. She never really was married to Uriah
4. David is guilty but he repented magnificently
5. If he was so bad, would their son be the next king?
6. Zohar: David was meant to be with her but when he took Michal it was passed over and now he took her. Also Sanhedrin 107
7. Ramah MiPano: She is a gilgul of Bat Shua wife of Judah who died.
8. Ginzei Shechter I 166: Bat Sheva knew she would beget a wise son who will sing many songs so she would dress up with silk and more.. But he paid no attention so she went up to the roof....

Why does Natan not use his prophetic voice?

Abarbanel: What G-d says is conditional on behavior. His promise to his wife is a moral matter. Or, maybe he would be seen as simply trying to support his prophecy re. Shelomo. Also, it is his role to merge the human effort with the divine promise.

Bat Sheva

Sanhedrin 70b

ומה בר נדרי שכל הנשים של בית אביך היו נודרות יהא לי בן הגון למלכות, ואמרתי יהא לי בן זריז וממולא בתורה והגון לנביאות... (שם ע ב)

What is my son, for all the women of your father's house would vow, May I have a son fit for kingship and I said, may I have a son who is hard working and filled with torah and fit for prophecy.

What is this Rabbinic View of Bat Sheva?

Bat Sheva prayed that David will live forever.

How could she say this?

Either she refers to the after life or that she means that she is not hoping for his death.