

~**ABSALOM (1321)**

(Ab'sa-lom) [Father, that is, God, Is Peace]

- **Murder of Amnon**
- **Kills Amnon**
- **Restoration to Favor**
- **Treasonous Activity**
- **Conspiracy To Usurp David's Throne**
- **Decisive Battle and Death**
- **Absalom's Monument**

- The third of six sons born to David at Hebron. His mother was Maacah the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur.
- And his second was Chileab by Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite, and the third was **Absalom** the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur. (**2 Samuel 3:3**)
- And the fourth was Adonijah the son of Haggith, and the fifth was Shephatiah the son of Abital. (**2 Samuel 3:4**)
- And the sixth was Ithream by Eglah, David's wife. These were the one's born to David in Hebron. (**2 Samuel 3:5**)
- **Absalom** fathered three sons and one daughter.
- And there came to be born to **Absalom** three sons and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She proved to be a woman most beautiful in appearance. (**2 Samuel 14:27**)
- He is evidently called **Abishalom** at;
- Three years he reigned in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Maacah the granddaughter of **Abishalom**. (**1 Kings 15:2**)
- And forty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem, and his grandmother's name was Maacah the granddaughter of **Abishalom**. (**1 Kings 15:10**)
- And after her he took Maacah the granddaughter of **Absalom**. In time she bore him Abijah and Attai and Ziza and Shelomith. (**2 Chronicles 11:20**)

- And Rehoboam was more in love with Maacah the granddaughter of **Absalom** than all his other wives and his concubines, for there were eighteen wives that he had taken, also sixty concubines, so that he became father to twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. (2 Chronicles 11:21)
- Physical beauty ran strong in **Absalom's** family. He was nationally praised for his outstanding beauty, his luxuriant growth of hair, doubtless made heavier by the use of oil or ointments, weighed some 200 shekels (2.3 kilograms)(5 pounds) when annually cut. His sister Tamar was also beautiful, and his daughter, named for her aunt, was **most beautiful in appearance**.
- Now compared with **Absalom** there proved to be no man so beautiful in all Israel as to be praised so much. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there proved to be no defect in him. (2 Samuel 14:25)
- And when he shaved his head, and it occurred at the end of every year that he would shave it, because it was so heavy upon him, he shaved it, he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the royal stone weight. (2 Samuel 14:26)
- And there came to be born to **Absalom** three sons and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She proved to be a woman most beautiful in appearance. (2 Samuel 14:27)
- And it came about after such things that **Absalom** the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David fell in love with her. (2 Samuel 13:1)
- Rather than being of benefit, however, this beauty contributed to some ugly events that caused immense grief to **Absalom's** father, David, as well as to others, and produced great turmoil for the nation.

·· Murder of Amnon

- The beauty of **Absalom's** sister Tamar caused his older half brother Amnon to become infatuated with her. Feigning illness, Amnon contrived to have Tamar sent to his quarters to cook for him, and then he forcibly violated her. Amnon's erotic love turned to contemptuous hate and he had Tamar put out into the street. Ripping apart her striped gown that had distinguished her as a virgin daughter of the king, and with ashes on her head, Tamar was met by **Absalom**. He

quickly sized up the situation and voiced immediate suspicion of Amnon, indicating a prior alertness to his half brothers passionate desire. **Absalom** instructed his sister to raise no accusation, however, and took her into his home to reside.

- And it came about after such things that **Absalom** the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David fell in love with her. (2 Samuel 13:1)
- And it was so distressing to Amnon that he felt sick on account of Tamar his sister, because she was a virgin, and it was difficult in the eyes of Amnon to do anything at all to her. (2 Samuel 13:2)
- Now Amnon had a companion whose name was Jehonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, and Jehonadab was a very wise man. (2 Samuel 13:3)
- So he said to him; Why are you, the son of the king, so downcast as this, morning by morning? Will you not tell me? At this Amnon said to him; With Tamar the sister of **Absalom** my brother I am in love. (2 Samuel 13:4)
- Upon that Jehonadab said to him; Lie down on your bed and play sick. And your father will certainly come to see you, and you must say to him; Please, let Tamar my sister come in and give me bread as a patient, and she will have to make the bread of consolation under my eyes in order, that I may see it, and I shall have to eat from her hand. (2 Samuel 13:5)
- Accordingly Amnon lay down and played sick, and so the king came in to see him. Then Amnon said to the king; Please, let Tamar my sister come in and bake two heart-shaped cakes under my eyes, that I may take bread as a patient from her hand. (2 Samuel 13:6)
- At that David sent to Tamar at the house, saying; Go, please, to the house of Amnon your brother and make the bread of consolation for him. (2 Samuel 13:7)
- So Tamar went to the house of Amnon her brother while he was lying down. Then she took the flour dough and kneaded it and made the cakes under his eyes and cooked the heart-shaped cakes. (2 Samuel 13:8)

- **Finally she took the deep pan and poured it out before him, but Amnon refused to eat and said; Have everybody go out from me! Then everybody went out from him. (2 Samuel 13:9)**
- **Amnon now said to Tamar; Bring the bread of consolation to the interior room, that I may take it as a patient from your hand. So Tamar took the heart-shaped cakes that she had made and brought them in to Amnon her brother in the interior room. (2 Samuel 13:10)**
- **When she came near to him for him to eat, he at once grabbed hold of her and said to her; Come, lie down with me, my sister. (2 Samuel 13:11)**
- **However, she said to him; No, my brother! Do not humiliate me, for it is not usual to do that way in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful folly. (2 Samuel 13:12)**
- **And I, where shall I cause my reproach to go? And you, you will become like one of the senseless men in Israel. And now speak, please, to the king, for he will not withhold me from you. (2 Samuel 13:13)**
- **And he did not consent to listen to her voice, but used strength superior to hers and humiliated her and lay down with her. (2 Samuel 13:14)**
- **And Amnon began hating her with a very great hatred, because the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her, so that Amnon said to her; Get up, go away! (2 Samuel 13:15)**
- **At this she said to him; No, my brother, for this badness in sending me away is greater than the other that you have done with me! And he did not consent to listen to her. (2 Samuel 13:16)**
- **With that he called his attendant who waited upon him and said; Send this person away from me, please, to the outside, and lock the door behind her. (2 Samuel 13:17)**
- **Now upon her there was a striped robe, for that was the way the daughters of the king, the virgins, used to dress with sleeveless coats. So his waiter proceeded to lead her clear outside, and he**

locked the door behind her. (2 Samuel 13:18)

- Then Tamar placed ashes upon her head, and the striped robe that was upon her she ripped apart, and she kept her hands put upon her head and went walking away, crying out as she walked. (2 Samuel 13:19)
- At this **Absalom** her brother said to her; Was it Amnon your brother that happened to be with you? And now, my sister, keep silent. He is your brother. Do not set your heart on this matter. And Tamar began to dwell, while being kept from association with others, at the house of **Absalom** her brother. (2 Samuel 13:20)
- According to John Kitto, **Absalom's** taking charge of Tamar, rather than her father's doing so, was in harmony with the Eastern custom, whereby, in a polygamous family, children of the same mother are the more closely knit together and the daughters **come under the special care and protection of their brother, who, in all that affects their safety and honor, is more looked to than the father himself.** [Daily Bible Illustrations, Samuel, Saul, and David, 1857, p. 384]
- Much earlier, it was Levi and Simeon, two of Dinah's full brothers, who took it upon themselves to avenge their sisters dishonor.
- However, it came about that on the third day, when they got to be aching, the two sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, brothers of Dinah, proceeded to take each one his sword and to go unsuspectedly to the city and to kill every male. (Genesis 34:25)
- Hearing of his daughters humiliation, David reacted with great anger but, perhaps due to the fact that no direct or formal accusation was made with the support of evidence or witnesses, took no judicial action against the offender.
- No single witness should rise up against a man respecting any error or any sin, in the case of any sin that he may commit. At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses the matter should stand good. (Deuteronomy 19:15)
- **Absalom** may have preferred not to have an issue made of Amnon's violation of the Levitical Law.
- As for the nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father or the daughter of your mother, whether born in the same

household or born outside it, you must not lay bare their nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:9**)

- And where a man takes his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother, and he does see her nakedness, and she herself sees his nakedness, it is shame. So they must be cut off before the eyes of the sons of their people. It is the nakedness of his sister that he has laid bare. He should answer for his error. (**Leviticus 20:17**)
- To avoid unsavory publicity for his family and name, but he, nevertheless, nursed a murderous hatred for Amnon while outwardly controlling himself until the propitious moment for exacting vengeance in his own way.
- With his lips the hater makes himself unrecognizable, but inside of him he puts deception. (**Proverbs 26:24**)
- Although he makes his voice gracious, do not believe in him, for there are seven detestable things in his heart. (**Proverbs 26:25**)
- Hatred is covered over by deceit. His badness will be uncovered in the congregation. (**Proverbs 26:26**)
- You must not hate your brother in your heart. You should by all means reprove your associate, that you may not bear sin along with him. (**Leviticus 19:17**)
- From this point forward his life is a study in treachery, occupying the major part of six chapters of Second Samuel.
- And King David himself heard about all these things, and he became very angry. (**2 Samuel 13:21**)
- And **Absalom** did not speak with Amnon either bad or good, for Absalom hated Amnon over the fact that he had humiliated Tamar his sister. (**2 Samuel 13:22**)

.. Kills Amnon

- Two years passed. Sheepshearing time came, a festive occasion, and **Absalom** arranged a feast at Baal-hazor about 22 kilometers (14 miles) North-Northeast of Jerusalem, inviting the king's sons and David

himself. When his father begged off from attending, **Absalom** pressed him to agree to send Amnon, his firstborn, in his stead.

- Where there is one covering over hatred there are lips of falsehood, and the one bringing forth a bad report is stupid. (**Proverbs 10:18**)
- At the feast, when Amnon was in a merry mood with wine, **Absalom** ordered his servants to slay him. The other sons headed back to Jerusalem, and **Absalom** went into exile with his Syrian grandfather in the kingdom of Geshur to the East of the Sea of Galilee.
- And it turned out after two full years that **Absalom** came to have sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is close by Ephraim, and **Absalom** proceeded to invite all the sons of the king. (**2 Samuel 13:23**)
- So **Absalom** came in to the king and said; Here, now, your servant has sheepshearers! Let the king go, please, and also his servants, with your servant. (**2 Samuel 13:24**)
- But the king said to **Absalom**; No, my son! Do not let all of us go, please, that we may not be a burden upon you. Although he kept urging him, he did not consent to go but blessed him. (**2 Samuel 13:25**)
- Finally **Absalom** said; If not you, let Amnon my brother go with us, please. At this the king said to him; Why should he go with you? (**2 Samuel 13:26**)
- And **Absalom** began to urge him, so that he sent Amnon and all the sons of the king with him. (**2 Samuel 13:27**)
- Then **Absalom** commanded his attendants, saying; See, please, that just as soon as Amnon's heart is in a merry mood with wine, and I shall certainly say to you; Strike down Amnon! You must then put him to death. Do not be afraid. Have not I myself commanded you? Be strong and prove yourselves to be valiant men. (**2 Samuel 13:28**)
- And **Absalom's** attendants proceeded to do to Amnon just as Absalom had commanded, and all the other sons of the king began to rise up and mount each one his mule and take to flight. (**2 Samuel 13:29**)

- And it came about that, while they were on the way, the report itself came to David, saying; **Absalom** has struck down all the sons of the king, and not one of them has been left over. (2 Samuel 13:30)
- At this the king got up and ripped his clothes apart and lay upon the earth, and all his servants were standing by with their garments ripped apart. (2 Samuel 13:31)
- However, Jehonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said; Do not let my lord think that it is all the young men the sons of the king that they have put to death, for it is Amnon alone that has died, because at the order of **Absalom** it has occurred as something appointed from the day that he humiliated Tamar his sister. (2 Samuel 13:32)
- And now do not let my lord the king take to his heart the word, saying; All the king's sons themselves have died, but it is Amnon alone that has died. (2 Samuel 13:33)
- Meantime, **Absalom** went running away. Later the young man, the watchman, raised his eyes and saw, and, look! There were many people coming from the road behind him by the mountainside. (2 Samuel 13:34)
- At this Jehonadab said to the king; Look! The king's sons themselves have come in. In accord with the word of your servant so it has taken place. (2 Samuel 13:35)
- And it came about that, as soon as he finished speaking, here the king's sons themselves came in, and they began to raise their voice and weep, and even the king and all his servants wept with a very great weeping. (2 Samuel 13:36)
- As for **Absalom**, he ran off that he might go to Talmai the son of Ammihud the king of Geshur. And David continued to mourn over his son all the days. (2 Samuel 13:37)
- As for **Absalom**, he ran off and made his way to Geshur, and he came to be there three years. (2 Samuel 13:38)
- The **sword** foretold by the prophet Nathan had now entered David's **house** and would continue there for the rest of his life.

- And now a sword will not depart from your own house to time indefinite, as a consequence of the fact that you despised me so that you took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to become your wife. (2 Samuel 12:10)

· Restoration to Favor

- When three years time had eased the pain of the loss of his firstborn, David felt paternal longing for **Absalom**. Joab, reading his royal uncles thoughts, by means of stratagem opened the way for David to extend a probationary pardon allowing **Absalom** to be repatriated but without the right to appear in his father's court.
- Finally the soul of David the king longed to go out to **Absalom**, for he had comforted himself concerning Amnon, because he was dead. (2 Samuel 13:39)
- Now Joab the son of Zeruiah came to know that the kings heart was toward **Absalom**. (2 Samuel 14:1)
- Accordingly Joab sent to Tekoa and took from there a wise woman and said to her; Go in mourning, please, and dress yourself, please, with garments of mourning, and do not rub yourself with oil, and you must become like a woman here who has been mourning many days over someone dead. (2 Samuel 14:2)
- And you must come in to the king and speak to him a word like this. With that Joab put the words in her mouth. (2 Samuel 14:3)
- And the Tekoite woman proceeded to come in to the king and fall upon her face to the earth and prostrate herself and say; Do save, O king! (2 Samuel 14:4)
- To this the king said to her; What is the matter with you? To this she said; For a fact I am a widowed woman, now that my husband is dead. (2 Samuel 14:5)
- And your maidservant had two sons, and the two of them began to struggle with each other in the field while there was no deliverer to part them. Finally the one struck the other down and put him to death. (2 Samuel 14:6)

- **And here all the family have risen up against your maidservant and keep saying; Give over the striker of his brother, that we may put him to death for the soul of his brother whom he killed, and let us even annihilate the heir! And they will certainly extinguish the glow of my charcoals that has remained, so as to assign to my husband neither a name nor a remnant on the surface of the ground. (2 Samuel 14:7)**
- **Then the king said to the woman; Go to your house, and I myself shall give command regarding you. (2 Samuel 14:8)**
- **At this the Tekoite woman said to the king; Upon me, O my lord the king, be the error, and also upon the house of my father, while the king and his throne are innocent. (2 Samuel 14:9)**
- **And the king went on to say; If there is anyone speaking to you, you must also bring him to me, and he will never hurt you again. (2 Samuel 14:10)**
- **But she said; Let the king, please, remember Yehowah your God, that the avenger of blood may not be continually causing ruin and that they may not annihilate my son. To this he said; As Yehowah is living, not a single hair of your son will fall to the earth. (2 Samuel 14:11)**
- **The woman now said; Let your maidservant, please, speak a word to my lord the king. So he said; Speak! (2 Samuel 14:12)**
- **And the woman went on to say; Why, then, have you reasoned like this against the people of God? As the king is speaking this word he is like one that is guilty, in that the king does not bring back his own banished one. (2 Samuel 14:13)**
- **For we shall die without fail and be like waters that are being poured down to the earth, which cannot be gathered. But God will not take away a soul, and he has thought out reasons why the one banished should not be banished from him. (2 Samuel 14:14)**
- **And now that I have come in to speak this word to the king my lord, it is because the people made me afraid. So your maidservant said; Let me speak, please, to the king. Perhaps the king will act on the word of his slave girl. (2 Samuel 14:15)**

- **Because the king proceeded to listen so as to deliver his slave girl out of the palm of the man seeking to annihilate me and my lone son from the inheritance given by God. (2 Samuel 14:16)**
- **Then your maidservant said; Let the word of my lord the king serve, please, to give rest. For just like an angel of the true God is the way my lord the king is, to distinguish what is good and what is bad, and may Yehowah your God himself prove to be with you. (2 Samuel 14:17)**
- **The king now answered and said to the woman; Do not, please, hide from me a thing about which I am asking you. To this the woman said; Let my lord the king speak, please. (2 Samuel 14:18)**
- **And the king went on to say; Is the hand of Joab with you in all this? Then the woman answered and said; As your soul is living, O my lord the king, no man can go to the right or go to the left from all that my lord the king has spoken, for it was your servant Joab that commanded me, and he it was that put in the mouth of your maidservant all these words. (2 Samuel 14:19)**
- **For the sake of altering the face of the matter your servant Joab has done this thing, but my lord is wise as with the wisdom of the angel of the true God so as to know all that is in the earth. (2 Samuel 14:20)**
- **Subsequently the king said to Joab; Here, now, I shall certainly do this thing. So go, bring the young man **Absalom** back. (2 Samuel 14:21)**
- **At this Joab fell upon his face to the earth and prostrated himself and blessed the king, and Joab went on to say; Today your servant does know that I have found favor in your eyes, O my lord the king, because the king has acted on the word of his servant. (2 Samuel 14:22)**
- **With that Joab rose up and went to Geshur and brought **Absalom** to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 14:23)**
- **However, the king said; Let him turn toward his own house, but my face he may not see. So **Absalom** turned toward his own house, and the face of the king he did not see. (2 Samuel 14:24)**

- **Absalom** endured this ostracized status for two years and then began maneuvering for full pardon. When Joab, as an official of the king's court, refused to visit him, **Absalom** peremptorily had Joab's barley field burned and, when the indignant Joab came, told him he wanted a final decision by the king and said; If there is any error in me, he must then put me to death. When Joab relayed the message, David received his son, who thereupon fell on the ground in symbol of complete submission, and the king gave him the kiss of full pardon.
- And **Absalom** continued dwelling in Jerusalem for two full years, and the face of the king he did not see. (2 Samuel 14:28)
- So **Absalom** sent for Joab to send him to the king, and he did not consent to come to him. Then he sent again, a second time, and he did not consent to come. (2 Samuel 14:29)
- Finally he said to his servants; See Joab's tract of land beside mine, and there he has barley. Go and set it ablaze with fire. Accordingly the servants of **Absalom** set the tract of land ablaze with fire. (2 Samuel 14:30)
- At this Joab rose up and came to **Absalom** at the house and said to him; Why did your servants set the tract of land that is mine ablaze with fire? (2 Samuel 14:31)
- So **Absalom** said to Joab; Look! I sent to you, saying; Come here and let me send you to the king, saying; Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me that I should still be there. And now let me see the face of the king and, if there is any error in me, he must then put me to death. (2 Samuel 14:32)
- Subsequently Joab came in to the king and told him. Then he called **Absalom**, who now came in to the king and prostrated himself to him, falling upon his face to the earth before the king, after which the king kissed Absalom. (2 Samuel 14:33)

..Treasonous Activity

- Any natural or filial affection that **Absalom** had for David, however, had apparently vanished during the five years of separation from his father. Three years of association with pagan royalty may have cultivated the corroding influence of ambition. **Absalom** might have viewed himself as destined for the throne because of being descended from royalty on both sides of the family. Since Chileab or

Daniel, who was second in line of David's sons, is not mentioned after the account of his birth, it is also possible that he had died, thereby leaving **Absalom** as David's oldest surviving son.

- And his second was Chileab by Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite, and the third was **Absalom** the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur. (2 Samuel 3:3)
- And these became the sons of David that were born to him in Hebron, the firstborn Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, the second, Daniel, of Abigail the Carmelites. (1 Chronicles 3:1)
- Nevertheless, God's promise to David of a future seed to inherit the throne was given **after Absalom's** birth, and hence he should have known that he was not Yehowah's choice for the kingship.
- When your days come to the full, and you must lie down with your forefathers, then I shall certainly raise up your seed after you, which will come out of your inward parts, and I shall indeed firmly establish his kingdom. (2 Samuel 7:12)
- At any rate, once restored to royal rank, **Absalom** began an underhanded political campaign. With consummate skill he feigned great concern for the public welfare and presented himself as a man of the people. He carefully insinuated to the people, particularly those of the tribes outside Judah, that the king's court was lacking in interest in their problems and was greatly in need of a warmhearted man like **Absalom**.
- And it came about following such things that **Absalom** proceeded to have a chariot made for himself, with horses and with fifty men running before him. (2 Samuel 15:1)
- And **Absalom** rose up early and stood at the side of the road to the gate. And it came about, when any man happened to have a legal case to come to the king for judgment, then **Absalom** would call him and say; From what city are you? and he would say; From one of the tribes of Israel your servant is. (2 Samuel 15:2)
- And **Absalom** would say to him; See, your matters are good and straight, but there is no one from the king giving you a hearing. (2 Samuel 15:3)
- And **Absalom** would go on to say; O that I were appointed judge

in the land, that to me every man might come that happens to have a legal case or judgment! Then I should certainly do justice to him. (2 Samuel 15:4)

- It also occurred that, when a man drew near to bow down to him, he thrust his hand out and grabbed hold of him and kissed him. (2 Samuel 15:5)
- And **Absalom** kept doing a thing like this to all Israelites that would come in for judgment to the king, and Absalom kept stealing the hearts of the men of Israel. (2 Samuel 15:6)
- The phrase at the end of forty years found at;
- And it came about at the end of forty years that **Absalom** proceeded to say to the king; Let me go, please, and pay in Hebron my vow that I solemnly made to Yehowah. (2 Samuel 15:7)
- Is uncertain in its application, and in the **Greek Septuagint**, **Lagardian edition**, **Syriac Peshitta**, and **Latin Vulgate** it is rendered as four years. But it is not likely that **Absalom** would wait a total of six years to fulfill a vow, if the four years were viewed as counting from the time of his complete reinstatement.
- And **Absalom** continued dwelling in Jerusalem for two full years, and the face of the king he did not see. (2 Samuel 14:28)
- Since a three-year famine, a war with the Philistines, and Adonijah's attempt at the throne all took place during David's reign but after the events now considered, it is evident that the writers starting point of forty years would have to have begun considerably prior to the beginning of David's 40-year reign, and perhaps means 40 years from his first anointing by Samuel. This would then allow for **Absalom's** being still a young man at this point.
- And the king went on to command Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying; Deal gently for my sake with the young man **Absalom**. And all the people themselves heard when the king commanded all the chiefs over the matter of Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:5)
- Since he was born sometime between **1077 and 1070 B.C.E.**

•• Conspiracy To Usurp David's Throne

- **Absalom**, feeling satisfied that he had built up a strong following throughout the realm, obtained permission from his father by means of a pretext to go to Hebron, the original capital of Judah. From there he quickly organized a full-scale conspiracy for the throne, including a nationwide web of spies to proclaim his kingship. After having invoked God's blessing on his rule by offering sacrifices, he obtained the support of his father's most respected counselor, Ahithophel. Many now swung to **Absalom's** side.

- And it came about at the end of forty years that **Absalom** proceeded to say to the king; Let me go, please, and pay in Hebron my vow that I solemnly made to Yehowah. (2 Samuel 15:7)

- For your servant made a solemn vow when I was dwelling in Geshur in Syria, saying; If Yehowah will without fail bring me back to Jerusalem, I must also render service to Yehowah. (2 Samuel 15:8)

- So the king said to him; Go in peace. With that he rose up and went to Hebron. (2 Samuel 15:9)

- **Absalom** now sent spies through all the tribes of Israel, saying; As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, you must also say; Absalom has become king in Hebron! (2 Samuel 15:10)

- Now there had gone with **Absalom** two hundred men from Jerusalem, being called and going unsuspectingly, and they did not know a single thing. (2 Samuel 15:11)

- Further, when he offered the sacrifices, **Absalom** sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy kept getting stronger, and the people were continually growing in number with **Absalom**. (2 Samuel 15:12)

- Faced with a major crisis and anticipating a large-scale attack, David chose to evacuate the palace along with all his household, although he had the loyal support of a large body of faithful men, including the principal priests, Abiathar and Zadok. These two he sent back to Jerusalem to serve as liaison agents.

- While ascending the Mount of Olives, barefoot, head covered, and weeping, David was met by Hushai, the king's companion, whom he likewise dispatched to Jerusalem to frustrate Ahithophel's counsel.
- In time an informer came to David, saying; The heart of the men of Israel has come to be behind **Absalom**. (2 Samuel 15:13)
- At once David said to all his servants that were with him in Jerusalem; Get up, and let us run away, for there will prove to be no escaping for us because of **Absalom**! Go hurriedly, for fear he may hurry up and actually catch up with us and bring down upon us what is bad and strike the city with the edge of the sword! (2 Samuel 15:14)
- At this the king's servants said to the king; According to all that my lord the king may choose, here are your servants. (2 Samuel 15:15)
- So the king went out with all his household at his feet, and the king left ten women, concubines, to take care of the house. (2 Samuel 15:16)
- And the king continued on his way out with all the people at his feet, and they came to a stop at Beth-merhak. (2 Samuel 15:17)
- And all his servants were crossing at his side, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men that had followed him from Gath, were crossing before the king's face. (2 Samuel 15:18)
- Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite; Why should you yourself also go with us? Go back and dwell with the king, for you are a foreigner and, besides, you are an exile from your place. (2 Samuel 15:19)
- Yesterday was when you came and today shall I make you wander with us, to go when I am going wherever I am going? Go back and take your brothers back with you, and may Yehowah exercise toward you loving-kindness and trustworthiness! (2 Samuel 15:20)
- But Ittai answered the king and said; As Yehowah is living and as my lord the king is living, in the place where my lord the king may come to be, whether for death or for life, there is where

your servant will come to be! (2 Samuel 15:21)

- **At that David said to Ittai; Go and cross over. So Ittai the Gittite crossed over, and also all his men and all the little ones that were with him. (2 Samuel 15:22)**
- **And all the people of the land were weeping with a loud voice, and all the people were crossing over, and the king was standing by the torrent valley of Kidron, and all the people were crossing over upon the open road to the wilderness. (2 Samuel 15:23)**
- **And here also there were Zadok and with him all the Levites carrying the ark of the covenant of the true God, and they proceeded to set the ark of the true God down by Abiathar until all the people completed crossing over from the city. (2 Samuel 15:24)**
- **But the king said to Zadok; Take the ark of the true God back to the city. If I shall find favor in the eyes of Yehowah, he will also certainly bring me back and let me see it and its abiding place. (2 Samuel 15:25)**
- **But if this is what he should say; I have found no delight in you, here I am, let him do to me just as it is good in his eyes. (2 Samuel 15:26)**
- **And the king went on to say to Zadok the priest; You are a seer, are you? Do return to the city in peace, and also Ahimaaz your son and Jonathan the son of Abiathar, the two sons of you men, with you. (2 Samuel 15:27)**
- **See, I am lingering by the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you men to inform me. (2 Samuel 15:28)**
- **Accordingly Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of the true God back to Jerusalem, and they continued to dwell there. (2 Samuel 15:29)**
- **And David was going up by the ascent of the Olives, weeping as he went up, with his head covered, and he was walking barefoot, and all the people that were with him covered each one his head, and they went up weeping as they went up. (2 Samuel 15:30)**
- **And to David the report was made, saying; Ahithophel himself is**

among those conspiring with **Absalom**. At this David said; Turn, please, the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness, O Yehowah! (2 Samuel 15:31)

- And it came about that when David himself came to the summit where people used to bow down to God, here to meet him was Hushai the Archite, with his robe ripped apart and dirt upon his head. (2 Samuel 15:32)
- However, David said to him; If you actually went across with me, you would then certainly become a load upon me. (2 Samuel 15:33)
- But if you return to the city and you actually say to **Absalom**, I am your servant, O King. I used to prove myself the servant of your father, even I at that time, but now even I am your servant, you must then frustrate the counsel of Ahithophel for me. (2 Samuel 15:34)
- Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests there with you? And it must occur that everything that you may hear from the house of the king you should tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. (2 Samuel 15:35)
- Look! There with them are their two sons, Ahimaaz belonging to Zadok and Jonathan belonging to Abiathar, and by means of them you men must send to me everything that you may hear. (2 Samuel 15:36)
- So Hushai, David's companion, came into the city. As for **Absalom**, he proceeded to come into Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 15:37)
- Beset by opportunists, one seeking favor, another filled with partisan spirit and venting stored-up hatred, David stands in sharp contrast to **Absalom** by his quiet submission and refusal to render evil for evil. Rejecting his nephew Abishai's plea for permission to cross over and take off the head of the stone-throwing, cursing Shimei, David reasoned; Here my own son, who has come forth out of my own inward parts, is looking for my soul, and how much more now a Benjaminite! Let him alone that he may call down evil, for Yehowah has said so to him! Perhaps Yehowah will see with his eye, and Yehowah will actually restore to me goodness instead of his malediction this day.

- **When David himself had crossed over a little beyond the summit, there was Ziba the attendant of Mephibosheth to meet him with a couple of asses saddled and upon them two hundred loaves of bread and a hundred cakes of raisins and a hundred loads of summer fruit and a large jar of wine. (2 Samuel 16:1)**
- **Then the king said to Ziba; What do these things mean on your part? To this Ziba said; The asses are for the household of the king to ride, and the bread and the load of summer fruit are for the young men to eat, and the wine is for the one tired out in the wilderness to drink. (2 Samuel 16:2)**
- **The king now said; And where is the son of your master? At this Ziba said to the king; There he is dwelling in Jerusalem, for he said; Today the house of Israel will give back to me the royal rule of my father. (2 Samuel 16:3)**
- **The king then said to Ziba; Look! Yours is everything that belongs to Mephibosheth. Upon that Ziba said; I do bow down. Let me find favor in your eyes, my lord the king. (2 Samuel 16:4)**
- **And King David came as far as Bahurim, and, look! Coming out from there was a man of the family of Saul's house, and his name was Shimei, the son of Gera, coming out and calling down evil as he came out. (2 Samuel 16:5)**
- **And he began throwing stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were at his right and at his left. (2 Samuel 16:6)**
- **And this is what Shimei said as he called down evil; Get out, get out, you bloodguilty man and good-for-nothing man! (2 Samuel 16:7)**
- **Yehowah has brought back upon you all the bloodguilt for the house of Saul in place of whom you have ruled as king, and Yehowah gives the kingship into the hand of Absalom your son. And here you are in your calamity, because you are a bloodguilty man! (2 Samuel 16:8)**
- **Finally Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king; Why should this dead dog call down evil upon my lord the king? Let me go over, please, and take off his head. (2 Samuel 16:9)**

- But the king said; What do I have to do with you men, you sons of Zeruiah? Thus let him call down evil, because Yehowah himself has said to him; Call down evil upon David! So who should say; Why did you do that way? (2 Samuel 16:10)
- And David went on to say to Abishai and all his servants; Here my own son, who has come forth out of my own inward parts, is looking for my soul, and how much more now a Benjaminite! Let him alone that he may call down evil, for Yehowah has said so to him! (2 Samuel 16:11)
- Perhaps Yehowah will see with his eye, and Yehowah will actually restore to me goodness instead of his malediction this day. (2 Samuel 16:12)
- With that David and his men kept going on in the road, while Shimei was walking on the side of the mountain, walking abreast of him that he might call down evil, and he kept throwing stones while abreast of him, and he threw a lot of dust. (2 Samuel 16:13)
- At length the king and all the people that were with him arrived tired. So they refreshed themselves there. (2 Samuel 16:14)
- Occupying Jerusalem and the palace, **Absalom** accepted Hushai's apparent defection to his side after first making a sarcastic reference to Hushai's being the faithful companion of David. Then, acting on Ahithophel's counsel, **Absalom** publicly had relations with his father's concubines as proof of the complete break between himself and David and of his unrelenting determination to maintain control of the throne.
- As for **Absalom** and all the people, the men of Israel, they entered Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him. (2 Samuel 16:15)
- And it came about that, as soon as Hushai the Archite, David's companion, came in to **Absalom**, Hushai proceeded to say to Absalom; Let the king live! Let the king live! (2 Samuel 16:16)
- At this **Absalom** said to Hushai; This is the loving-kindness of yours toward your companion, is it? Why did you not go with your companion? (2 Samuel 16:17)

- So Hushai said to **Absalom**; No, but the one whom Yehowah has chosen and also this people and all the men of Israel, his I shall become, and with him I shall dwell. (2 Samuel 16:18)
- And for the second time I must say; Whom shall I myself serve? Is it not before his son? Just as I served before your father, so I shall prove to be before you. (2 Samuel 16:19)
- Later **Absalom** said to Ahithophel; You men, give counsel on your part. What shall we do? (2 Samuel 16:20)
- Then Ahithophel said to **Absalom**; Have relations with the concubines of your father, whom he left behind to take care of the house. And all Israel will certainly hear that you have made yourself foul-smelling to your father, and the hands of all those who are with you will certainly become strong. (2 Samuel 16:21)
- Accordingly they pitched a tent for **Absalom** upon the roof, and Absalom began to have relations with the concubines of his father under the eyes of all Israel. (2 Samuel 16:22)
- And the counsel of Ahithophel, with which he counseled in those days, was just as when a man would inquire of the word of the true God. That was the way all the counsel of Ahithophel was both to David and to **Absalom**. (2 Samuel 16:23)
- In this way the latter part of Nathan's inspired prophecy saw fulfillment.
- This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am raising up against you calamity out of your own house, and I will take your wives under your own eyes and give them to your fellowman, and he will certainly lie down with your wives under the eyes of this sun. (2 Samuel 12:11)
- Ahithophel now urged **Absalom** to charge him with authority to lead a force against David that very night so as to administer the deathblow before David's forces could get organized. Pleased, **Absalom** still thought it wise to hear Hushai's opinion.
- Realizing David's need for time, Hushai painted a vivid picture, possibly designed to play on any lack of genuine courage in **Absalom**, who, till now, had displayed more arrogance and craftiness than manly valor, as well as to appeal to **Absalom's**

vanity.

- Hushai recommended the taking of time first to build up an overwhelming force of men to be then commanded by Absalom himself. By Yehowah's direction, Hushai's counsel was accepted. Ahithophel, evidently realizing that Absalom's revolt would fail, committed suicide.
- And Ahithophel proceeded to say to **Absalom**; Let me choose, please, twelve thousand men and rise up and chase after David tonight. (2 Samuel 17:1)
- And I shall come upon him when he is weary and feeble in both hands, and I shall certainly drive him into trembling, and all the people that are with him will have to flee, and I shall certainly strike down the king by himself. (2 Samuel 17:2)
- And let me bring all the people back to you. Equivalent to the returning of all is the man whom you are seeking, and all the people will themselves come to be at peace. (2 Samuel 17:3)
- And the word was just right in the eyes of Absalom and in the eyes of all the older men of Israel. (2 Samuel 17:4)
- However, **Absalom** said; Call, please, Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what is in his mouth, even his. (2 Samuel 17:5)
- So Hushai came in to **Absalom**. Then **Absalom** said to him; According to this word is the way Ahithophel spoke. Shall we act upon his word? If not, you yourself speak. (2 Samuel 17:6)
- At this Hushai said to **Absalom**; The counsel with which Ahithophel has counseled is not good in this instance! (2 Samuel 17:7)
- And Hushai went on to say; You yourself well know your father and the men of his, that they are mighty, and they are bitter of soul, like a female bear that has lost her cubs in the field, and your father is a warrior, and he will not spend the night with the people. (2 Samuel 17:8)
- Look! Now he is in hiding in one of the hollows or in one of the other places, and it will certainly occur that, just as soon as he falls upon them at the start, the one hearing of it will then be

bound to hear and say; A defeat has taken place among the people that are following **Absalom**! (2 Samuel 17:9)

- And even the valiant man whose heart is as the heart of the lion will himself surely soften in weakness, for all Israel is aware that your father is a mighty man and so, too, are the valiant men that are with him. (2 Samuel 17:10)
- I myself do say in counsel; Let all Israel without fail be gathered to you, from Dan to Beer-sheba, as the sand particles that are by the sea for multitude, with your own person going into the fight. (2 Samuel 17:11)
- And we must come against him in one of the places where he is certain to be found, and we ourselves will be upon him just as the dew falls upon the ground, and there will certainly not be left even a single one among him and all the men that are with him. (2 Samuel 17:12)
- And if it is into some city that he will withdraw, all Israel must also carry ropes to that city, and we shall certainly drag it down to the torrent valley, until there shall not be found there even a pebble. (2 Samuel 17:13)
- Then **Absalom** and all the men of Israel said; The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel! And Yehowah himself had given command to frustrate the counsel of Ahithophel although good, in order, that Yehowah might bring calamity upon Absalom. (2 Samuel 17:14)
- As for Ahithophel, he saw that his counsel had not been acted upon, and he proceeded to saddle an ass and rise up and go off to his house at his own city. Then he gave commands to his household and strangled himself and thus died. So he was buried in the burial place of his forefathers. (2 Samuel 17:23)
- As a precautionary measure, Hushai sent word to David of Ahithophel's counsel, and despite **Absalom's** efforts to catch the clandestine couriers, David received the warning and crossed over the Jordan and went up into the hills of Gilead to Mahanaim, where Ish-bosheth had had his capital.
- Here he was received with expressions of generosity and kindness. Preparing for the conflict, David organized his expanding

forces into three divisions under Joab, Abishai, and Ittai the Gittite. Urged to remain in the city, as his presence would be of more value there, David submitted and again displayed an amazing lack of rancor toward **Absalom** by publicly requesting his three captains to deal gently for my sake with the young man **Absalom**.

- This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am raising up against you calamity out of your own house, and I will take your wives under your own eyes and give them to your fellowman, and he will certainly lie down with your wives under the eyes of this sun. (2 Samuel 12:11)

•• Decisive Battle and Death

- **Absalom's** newly formed forces were administered a crushing defeat by David's experienced fighters. The battle reached into the forest of Ephraim. **Absalom**, riding away on his royal mule, passed under the low branches of a large tree and apparently got his head enmeshed in the fork of a branch so that he was left suspended in the air.
- The man who reported to Joab that he had seen him said he would not have disobeyed David's request by slaying **Absalom** for a thousand pieces of silver, if shekels, c. \$2,200, but Joab felt no such restraint and drove three shafts into **Absalom's** heart, after which ten of his men joined their captain in sharing the responsibility for **Absalom's** death. **Absalom's** body was thereafter thrown into a hollow and covered with a mound of stones as unworthy of burial. (2 Samuel 18:6-17)
- And they proceeded to raise up over him a big pile of stones, down to this day. At this Yehowah turned away from his hot anger. That is why the name of that place has been called Low Plain of Achor, down to this day. (Joshua 7:26)
- And he hanged the king of Ai upon a stake until the evening time, and as the sun was about to set Joshua gave the command, and then they took his dead body down from the stake and pitched it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised up a great pile of stones over him, down to this day. (Joshua 8:29)
- When messengers reached David in Mahanaim, his first concern was for his son. Learning of **Absalom's** death, David paced the floor of the roof chamber, crying; My son **Absalom**, my son, my son **Absalom**!

O that I might have died, I myself, instead of you, **Absalom my son, my son!**

- **Now David was sitting between the two gates. Meantime, the watchman went to the roof of the gate by the wall. At length he raised his eyes and saw and, look! There was a man running by himself. (2 Samuel 18:24)**
- **So the watchman called and told the king, at which the king said; If he is by himself, there is news in his mouth. And he kept coming, steadily getting nearer. (2 Samuel 18:25)**
- **The watchman now saw another man running. The watchman therefore called to the gatekeeper and said; Look! Another man running by himself! At which the king said; This one also is a news bearer. (2 Samuel 18:26)**
- **And the watchman went on to say; I am seeing that the running style of the first is like the running style of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, at which the king said; This is a good man, and with Good News he should come. (2 Samuel 18:27)**
- **Eventually Ahimaaz called and said to the king; It is well! With that he bowed to the king with his face to the earth. And he went on to say; Blessed be Yehowah your God, who has surrendered the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king! (2 Samuel 18:28)**
- **However, the king said; Is it well with the young man **Absalom**? To this Ahimaaz said; I saw the great commotion at the time Joab sent the kings servant and your servant, and I did not know what it was. (2 Samuel 18:29)**
- **So the king said; Step aside, take your position here. At that he stepped aside and kept standing still. (2 Samuel 18:30)**
- **And here was the Cushite coming in, and the Cushite began to say; Let my lord the king accept news, for Yehowah has judged you today to free you from the hand of all those rising up against you. (2 Samuel 18:31)**
- **But the king said to the Cushite; Is it well with the young man **Absalom**? To this the Cushite said; May the enemies of my lord the king and all those who rose up against you for evil become as**

the young man. (2 Samuel 18:32)

- Then the king became disturbed and went up to the roof chamber over the gateway and gave way to weeping, and this is what he said as he walked; My son **Absalom**, my son, my son Absalom! O that I might have died, I myself, instead of you, Absalom my son, my son! (2 Samuel 18:33)
- Only Joab's blunt, straightforward speech and reasoning brought David out of his great grief due to the tragic course and end of this physically attractive and resourceful young man, whose driving ambition led him to fight against God's anointed, thus bringing himself to ruin.
- Later it was reported to Joab; Look! The king is weeping, and he carries on mourning over **Absalom**. (2 Samuel 19:1)
- So the salvation on that day came to be an occasion of mourning on the part of all the people, because the people heard say on that day; The king has felt hurt over his son. (2 Samuel 19:2)
- And the people began to steal away on that day to come into the city, just as the people would steal away when they felt disgraced because they fled in the battle. (2 Samuel 19:3)
- And the king himself covered up his face, and the king continued crying out with a loud voice; My son **Absalom**! Absalom my son, my son! (2 Samuel 19:4)
- Finally Joab came in to the king at the house and said; You have today put to shame the face of all your servants, the one's providing escape for your soul today and for the soul of your sons and your daughters and the soul of your wives and the soul of your concubines. (2 Samuel 19:5)
- By loving those hating you and by hating those loving you, for you have reported today that chiefs and servants are nothing to you, because I well know today that if only **Absalom** were alive and all of us others were today dead, why, in that case it would be right in your eyes. (2 Samuel 19:6)
- And now rise up, go out and speak straight to the heart of your servants, because, by Yehowah, I do swear that, in case you are not going out, not a man will lodge with you tonight, and this will

certainly be worse for you than all the injury that has come upon you from your youth until now. (**2 Samuel 19:7**)

- Accordingly the king rose up and seated himself in the gate, and to all the people they made the report, saying; There is the king sitting in the gate. And all the people began to come before the king. As for Israel, they had fled each one to his home. (**2 Samuel 19:8**)
- My son, fear Yehowah and the king. With those who are for a change, do not intermeddle. (**Proverbs 24:21**)
- For their disaster will arise so suddenly, that who is aware of the extinction of those who are for a change? (**Proverbs 24:22**)
- (**Psalms Chapter 3**) was written by David at the time of **Absalom's** revolt, according to the superscription that heads the psalm.

· **Absalom's Monument**

- A pillar had been erected by **Absalom** in the Low Plain of the King, also called the Low Plain of Shaveh, near Jerusalem.
- Now **Absalom** himself, while he was alive, had taken and proceeded to raise up for himself a pillar, which is in the Low Plain of the King, for he said; I have no son in order to keep my name in remembrance. So he called the pillar by his own name, and it continues to be called **Absalom's Monument** down to this day. (**2 Samuel 18:18**)
- Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, to the Low Plain of Shaveh, that is, the kings Low Plain. (**Genesis 14:17**)
- He had erected it because of having no sons to keep his name alive after his death. It thus appears that his three sons mentioned at;
- And there came to be born to **Absalom** three sons and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She proved to be a woman most beautiful in appearance. (**2 Samuel 14:27**)
- Had died when young. **Absalom** was not buried at the place of his monument, but was left in a hollow in the forest of Ephraim.

- And the people continued on their way out to the field to meet Israel, and the battle came to be in the forest of Ephraim. (2 Samuel 18:6)
- Finally they took **Absalom** and pitched him in the forest into a big hollow and raised up over him a very big pile of stones. As for all Israel, they fled each man to his home. (2 Samuel 18:17)
- There is a pillar cut out of the rock in the Kidron Valley that has been called the Tomb of **Absalom**, but its architecture indicates it is from the Greco-Roman period, perhaps of the time of Herod. So there is no basis for associating the name of **Absalom** with it.