

## The Life of David – Lesson 13

# David's Fractured Family

### 67. Amnon and Tamar

*II Samuel 13:1-22, 1032 B.C., Age 53*

- Amnon – “faithful”, age 23, David’s eldest son, His mother is Ahinoam (II Samuel 3:3).
- Absalom – “my father is peace”, age 21, his mother is Maacah (II Samuel 3:3).
- Tamar – “palm tree”, age 15, Absalom’s full sister (see vs. 1).
- vs. 3 – Perhaps this tragedy would be avoided if only Amnon had a true friend!
- vs. 13 – such a union was prohibited – Leviticus 18:9-11
- vs. 21 – David did not take action as he should have, likely because of his own guilt.
- This is the second of David’s Four-Fold Judgment

### 68. Absalom Murders Amnon

*II Samuel 13:23-39, 1030 B.C., Age 55, Absalom age 23*

- Absalom is patient and crafty, waiting two years to set up the murder of Amnon to avenge Tamar.
- vs. 32 – Sometimes it takes a wicked mind to recognize a wicked plot.
- vs. 37 – Absalom flees to his uncle in Geshur – compare to II Samuel 3:3
- This is the third of David’s Four-Fold Judgment

### 69. Joab’s Plot to Restore Absalom

*II Samuel 14:1-33, 1027 B.C., Age 58, Absalom age 26*

- vs. 4-11 – Joab took a page from Nathan’s playbook. Instead of confronting David, he presents a tale that parallels David’s actions and guides his response.
- Absalom was an exile in Geshur for three years (II Samuel 13:38) and remained exiled from David for another 2 years in Jerusalem (vs. 28).
- I believe we see Absalom’s machinations already at work in vs. 25-26 and vs. 29-33. He is not seeking reconciliation; he is plotting a rebellion.

### 70. Absalom’s Conspiracy

*II Samuel 15:1-6, 1026 B.C., Age 59, Absalom age 27*

- It appears to me that David must have been aware of this but took no action.

♪ **Psalm 5**

- *Nehiloth* – believed to be wind instruments, perhaps flutes. The root word means to “bore through”.

♪ **Psalm 36**

- Reese: “This psalm gives insight into the results of arrogant, self-focused wickedness.”

♪ **Psalm 62**

♪ **Psalm 64**

- Spurgeon: “[David’s] life was one of conflict, and very seldom does he finish a Psalm without mentioning his enemies; in this instance his thoughts are wholly occupied with prayer against them.”

## 71. Absalom Rebels

*II Samuel 15:7-12, 1026 B.C., Age 59*

- vs. 7 – four years or forty? The Hebrew text is *forty (arbaim)*. Some speculate this is an error and should read *four (arba)* but there appears to be no evidence of that from Hebrew manuscripts. Other suggestions include it being Absalom’s age, the years since David was anointed king by Samuel, the fortieth year of David’s reign, or the years since David attacked the Geshurites in I Samuel 27:8-9 (making Absalom’s rebellion an act of revenge since his mother was an Geshurite – II Samuel 3:3). I find these explanations to be unsatisfactory. Bottom line: I see no reason to change *forty* to *four* even as it is a faithful translation of the Hebrew text. After some study on the matter, I think the best interpretation is that the *forty years* refers to the previous verse, in which Absalom steals the hearts of the people. How long had David held the hearts of Israel? Since he slew Goliath in I Samuel 17, an event that Reese dates to 1067 B.C. when David was 17. We see that Israel and Judah love him in I Samuel 18:16. This interpretation is plausible by his chronology and reasonable in context.
- This is the *beginning* of the fourth of David’s Four-Fold Judgment