

# ABSALOM: THE DISAPPOINTING SON



# ABSALOM: HIS STORY

- “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER, SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU.”
- AS LITTLE BOYS, THE SONS OF THE REIGNING KING OF ISRAEL REPEATED THESE WORDS—AND THE REST OF THE COMMANDMENTS—UNTIL THEY WERE ACCURATELY MEMORIZED. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF GROWING UP AS A HEBREW. BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE KING’S CHILDREN TO KNOW THE LAW.

- THESE COMMANDMENTS WERE BASIC MORAL GUIDES FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD, BUT TO ABSALOM THEY WERE JUST EMPTY WORDS.
- HE HAD EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO BE A GREAT LEADER – CHARM, LOOKS, AND PASSION.
- “WHAT A GREAT KING YOU WILL MAKE SOMEDAY” THOSE AROUND HIM WOULD SAY.
- INSTEAD OF BEING HUMBLLED, ABSALOM WAS THINKING, “YES, I WILL...AND SOONER THAN YOU THINK!!”

- ABSALOM WAS EVEN AS A YOUNG MAN PLANNING HIS ASCENT TO THE THRONE OF ISRAEL
- HE WOULD TAKE THE KINGS FINEST CHARIOT AND WITH 50 MEN RUNNING IN FRONT OF HIM...QUITE A SHOW...IMPRESSING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
- HE WOULD THEN STAND BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND TALK ONE ON ONE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED BY

- THERE HE WARMLY GREETED THE PEOPLE AND THEN ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY COMPLAINTS. MANY OPENLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS TO DAVID'S SON. WHAT A WONDERFUL KING WE HAVE, THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT, THAT HE WOULD SEND HIS SON TO HEAR OUR CONCERNS.
- "WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS?" ABSALOM WOULD ASK THE PEOPLE WHO CAME BY TRAVELLING TO THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

- THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF ABSALOM WAS CARING BUT THERE WAS A DEADLY UNDERTOW OF TREASON
- HE WAS BUILDING A BASE OF PEOPLE WHO WERE DISGRUNTLED WITH LEADERSHIP AND WERE LOOKING FOR A CHANGE
- ABSALOM WAS PLACING HIMSELF IN THE POSITION TO BE THE CHANGE THEY WERE SEEKING.

- ABSALOM BEGAN TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM HIS FATHER AND POSITION HIMSELF FOR TAKING OVER THE THRONE OF ISRAEL
- HE WOULD SAY TO THE PEOPLE, "I AM JUST LIKE YOU, PART OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.
- "LOOK, YOUR CLAIMS ARE VALID AND PROPER, BUT THERE IS NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KING TO HEAR YOU." "YOU'RE RIGHT," THEY SAID. "WHERE IS OUR KING? WHY DOES HE NOT LISTEN TO US?"

- THE PLOT HAD BEGAN AND THE SEEDS OF DISCORD HAD BEEN SOWN INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE. A SECRET COUP WAS COMING AND DAVID DID NOT REALIZE WHAT WAS HAPPENING UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.
- “IF ONLY I WERE APPOINTED JUDGE IN THE LAND!” ABSALOM LAMENTED. “THEN EVERYONE WHO HAS A COMPLAINT OR CASE COULD COME TO ME, AND I WOULD SEE THAT HE GETS JUSTICE.”



- THEY SAW ABSALOM'S CARING ACTIONS AND WORDS AS GENUINE RATHER THAN TREASONOUS. A SON AGAINST HIS FATHER. A SUBJECT AGAINST HIS LORD. DAY AFTER DAY FOR FOUR YEARS, ABSALOM COMMISERATED WITH THE PEOPLE. "HE STOLE THE HEARTS OF THE MEN OF ISRAEL." THEY LOVED HIM. ABSALOM'S SCHEME WAS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE

# ABSALOM'S STRATEGY

- ABSALOM'S STRATEGY WAS THREE PRONG
  - FIRST HE DROVE A WEDGE OF DOUBT AND DISCORD BETWEEN HIS FATHER KING DAVID AND THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM.
  - SECOND HE GAINED FAVOR FOR HIMSELF BY PRETENDING TO CARE MORE FOR THE PEOPLE THAN DAVID. HE DIDN'T REALLY CARE, THEY WERE JUST A MEANS TO A WICKED END.
  - THIRD HE BEGAN TO BUILD POLITICAL ALLIANCES SO THAT THE SHIFT OF POWER WOULD LOOK MORE LEGITIMATE.

- THE PRINCE HAD PULLED IT OFF. MANY OF THE MEN OF ISRAEL WERE BEHIND HIM INCLUDING ONE OF DAVID'S TRUSTED "FRIENDS".
- THE MAN WHO DIDN'T FEAR LIONS, BEARS, OR GOLIATH RAN LIKE A FRIGHTENED CHILD FROM HIS OWN SON...HE FLED THE CAPITAL AND THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS IN TURMOIL.
- ABSALOM THEN TOOK DAVID'S PALACE, PITCHED A TENT ON THE BALCONY OF IT AND HAD A PUBLIC ORGY WITH DAVID'S CONCUBINES AS A SHOW OF DISRESPECT.

- ABSALOM PREPARED HIMSELF TO ATTACK THE KING BUT HE WAS NOT EXPERIENCED IN WARFARE LIKE HIS FATHER
- THE KING PREPARED FOR BATTLE AS WELL BUT TOLD HIS LEADERS TO “BE GENTLE” WITH HIS SON...AFTER WHAT ABSALOM HAD DONE, THE LEADERS COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT DAVID WAS SAYING.
- THE BATTLE WAS ON AND DAVID'S EXPERIENCED GENERALS QUICKLY DEFEATED ABSALOM AND HE STARTED TO FLEE ON A MULE.

- AS ABSALOM FLED HIS LONG HAIR BECAME TANGLED IN A TREE LIMB AND HE WAS LEFT HANGING HELPLESSLY FROM THE TREE.
- IGNORING WHAT DAVID HAD SAID AND KNOWING HE HAD TO PUT ABSALOM'S TREASON TO AN END, JOAB TOOK THREE SPEARS AND PLUNGED THEM INTO THE HEART OF THE REBELLIOUS PRINCE.
- THE LIFE OF ABSALOM HAD BEEN CUT SHORT AND THE FATHER KING WEPT OVER THE DEATH OF HIS SON...CRYING OUT ABSALOM OH MY ABSALOM.

- Absalom was a man overflowing with potential. If only he had channeled those talents wisely!
- If only his father had helped him. But because he had neither the self-control nor the parental control to reign in his resentment and acrimony, Absalom died violently.

- And David was forced to spend the rest of his life dealing with the agonizing “if onllys.” If only I had not sinned with Bathsheba, bringing all of this treachery to my family. If only I had loved my children enough to discipline them.

- Scripture says that children are a reward from the Lord (Psalm 127:3). Yet children can also provoke our greatest worry and our deepest grief. On the outside, Absalom looked like a son any man or woman might desire—handsome, intelligent, well-spoken—a man to be admired, a man to follow. And yet Absalom's future was destroyed by his foolish pursuit of revenge and power.



- Like David, many of us have watched our own children with growing concern because they seem intent on pursuing a path that will lead them far from God. Though we may feel helpless to save them, there is still something we can do for them. We can choose to keep following the Lord faithfully, voice and hold fast to him, remembering that the Lord is able to reach our children, even to the point of making us a channel of his blessing.



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