

THE CONSPIRACY OF ABSALOM

- I. Absalom's Charm (2 Samuel 14:25-27; 15:1-6)
- A. Absalom is described as an attractive man without blemish from head to toe.
 - 1. A sense of vanity seems to be implied by the statement about his hair.
 - 2. He cut it once a year and then weighed how much hair he had grown (from 2 - 5½ pounds!).
 - B. Absalom had three sons who are not named, apparently because they died young (cf. 18:18).
 - C. He also had a daughter whom he named after his beloved sister, Tamar. {2 Chronicles 11:20-21 speaks of another daughter who may have been his granddaughter (cf. 2 Chron. 13:2).}
 - D. He also demonstrated his vanity and pride in how he presented himself in the city.
 - 1. Absalom prepared for himself a royal procession.
 - 2. He rode in a chariot pulled by horses, something forbidden by God for the king (Duet. 17:16; cf. 1 Sam. 8:11).
 - 3. Before him ran 50 men – in the style of foreign leaders.
 - E. This was a calculated move to present himself before the people as the heir apparent to the throne.
 - F. His beauty and pomp were followed by his charm as he sought to win the people over to his side.
 - G. Absalom arrived early at the gate of the city and, like a “good politician,” told the people exactly what they wanted to hear.
 - 1. He created an air of discontent around the rule of David.
 - 2. He assured the people that he would do for the people all that his father was failing to accomplish.
 - H. When men would bow down to him in homage, Absalom would instead greet them as friends with the much more intimate gesture of a kiss.
 - I. By his cunning actions, Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel.
- II. Absalom's Conspiracy (2 Samuel 15:7-12)
- A. After four years, Absalom felt that it was time for the next step in his plan; thus, he began to stage a *coup*.
 - 1. The word “forty” in the KJV comes from the Masoretic text and is the result of a scribal error.
 - 2. David's entire reign as King lasted only 40 years (5:4).
 - 3. Other textual and contextual evidence suggest that the number should be four instead of forty.
 - B. He asked his father for permission to travel to Hebron (his birthplace {3:2-3}) to pay a vow that he had made to the Lord.
 - C. In fact, Absalom would use this as an opportunity to raise an army of his supporters with whom he could take Jerusalem and the throne from David.
 - D. David's last words to his son were, “Go in peace.”
 - E. Absalom sent instigators throughout the land to announce at a specified time that Absalom reigns in Hebron!
 - F. Most of the people did not know what was happening, at first; but, many began to join in this movement.
 - G. The conspiracy – unlawful, treasonous alliance – was strong.