

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.