

THE SINS OF AMNON AND ABSALOM

Introduction:

1. This chapter begins to detail the final section of David's reign as King of Israel.
2. Because of his rebellion, God had taken the kingdom from Saul.
3. Though he had sinned, David had repented and sought forgiveness.
4. Thus, God did not take the kingdom from him.
5. However, there were others who wanted nothing less than to remove David from the throne and take the kingdom for themselves.
6. This section of Scripture details how God preserved the kingdom under the reign of David and, eventually, his son Solomon.

- I. David's family (1 Chronicles 3:1-9)
 - A. David was married to at least 8 women who are named in Scripture.
 1. Michal (1 Sam. 18) – *daughter of Saul, childless (2 Sam. 6:23)*
 2. Abigail (1 Sam. 25) – *widow of Nabal*
 3. Ahinoam (1 Sam. 25) – *from Jezreel*
 4. Maacah (2 Sam. 3) – *daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur*
 5. Haggith (2 Sam. 3)
 6. Abital (2 Sam. 3)
 7. Eglah (2 Sam. 3)
 8. Bathsheba
 - B. He married more wives and had numerous concubines, but the exact number is not known (2 Samuel 5:13).
 - C. David had 19 sons who are named in Scripture.
 1. Amnon - *firstborn*
 2. Daniel (Chileab)
 3. Absalom
 4. Adonijah
 5. Shephatiah
 6. Ithream
 7. Solomon (cf. Matt. 1:6 – *ancestor of Jesus*)
 8. Shimea, Shobab, Nathan (cf. Luke 3:31) – *sons of Bathsheba*
 9. 1 Chronicles 3:6-8
 - D. David had 1 daughter who is named in Scripture.
 1. Tamar
 2. She was a daughter of Maacah and full sister of Absalom.

- II. The Sin of Amnon (2 Samuel 13:1-18)
 - A. Amnon and Tamar were half-siblings.
 - B. In spite of this, Amnon claimed that he loved Tamar.
 - C. In truth, he lusted after her and desired to be with her.
 - D. Jonadab was a friend and cousin of Amnon, and nephew of David.
 - E. He came up with a plot to bring Amnon and Tamar together.
 - F. Amnon pretended to be sick and Tamar was sent to prepare food for him.
 - G. When they were alone, Amnon raped his sister.
 - H. Afterward, his "love" turned to hate, and he had her removed from his presence – wanting nothing more to do with her.

2 Samuel 13

- III. The Anger of Absalom (2 Samuel 13:19-22)
- A. Naturally, Tamar was devastated by what had happened.
 - B. She mourned by casting ashes upon her head and rending her garment.
 - C. Her brother Absalom heard of her behavior and asked if Amnon had been with her.
 - 1. Note this question carefully.
 - 2. Absalom knew what Amnon was capable of doing.
 - 3. He was not surprised at all but seemed to expect it.
 - 4. This gives insight into the motivations and moves that are taking place behind the scenes of this story.
 - 5. As the firstborn son of the King, Amnon was in line for the throne.
 - 6. Yet, he was weak and corrupt.
 - 7. Absalom believed that the throne should be his, and was already plotting to take it.
 - 8. The events involving his sister provided the perfect opportunity.
 - D. Thus, Absalom instructs Tamar to keep quiet about what has happened.
 - E. Tamar is left desolate in her brother's house – the daughter of a king, but unable to be married.
 - F. Word came to David about what had happened, and he was outraged.
 - G. However, he could not act because no charges had been brought against Amnon.
 - H. Absalom carried on as usual, saying nothing either good or bad to Amnon.
- IV. The Sin of Absalom (2 Samuel 13:23-39)
- A. Finally, after 2 years had passed, Absalom acted to achieve his revenge.
 - B. He invited all the king's sons, including Amnon, to join him in shearing sheep.
 - C. He ordered his servants to wait until Amnon was "merry with wine," and then to kill him.
 - D. They obeyed and the firstborn son of David was murdered.
 - E. Absalom fled to his grandfather's house in the land of Geshur, where he remained for 3 years.
 - F. While David mourned for his son, unbeknownst to him, Absalom was plotting to steal the throne from his father.