

30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

#6 – Absalom’s Revolt | 2 Samuel 13:1-19:43

MEET ABSALOM

- Absalom was the second son of David. The first born was Amnon, born of a different mother, who was himself a key part of the Absalom story.
- Absalom was flawless in beauty, and especially known for his long hair – 2 Samuel 14:25-26.

ABSALOM KILLS HIS BROTHER | 2 SAMUEL 13:1-14:33

- Absalom’s sister Tamar was beautiful, and her half-brother Amnon was infatuated with her. With a convoluted scheme, Amnon eventually **forced her, and lay with her** (2 Sam. 13:14). Because of this, **Absalom hated Amnon** (2 Sam. 13:22).
- Absalom waited two full years, during which time he **spoke neither good nor bad** (2 Sam 13:22) to his brother. Rather, he kept his hatred to himself.
- After two years, Absalom seized upon an opportunity to have Amnon killed. In the process, David initially believed that all of his sons were killed – see 2 Samuel 13:28-33.
- As a result of the murder, Absalom fled to Geshur, home of his mother’s family, and remained there three years (2 Sam. 13:38).
- Through the intervention of King David’s servant Joab, Absalom was eventually brought back to Jerusalem, but was in Jerusalem for two years and **saw not the king’s face** (2 Sam. 14:28). After the five-year period the two were joyfully reunited (2 Sam. 14:33). However, Absalom was deceptively working throughout the entire time.

ABSALOM’S REBELLION | 2 SAMUEL 15:1-17:29

- Absalom was now, as the oldest son, heir to the throne, in his eyes. However, David had made a commitment that Solomon would be the next King (see 1 Kings 1:13). It is not known if Absalom knew about this commitment.
- Absalom-always the conniving, self-serving brat-first devised a plan to capture the hearts of the people. His plan: give them whatever they wanted. 2 Samuel 15:1-6.
- Next Absalom fabricated a plan to go to Hebron under false pretenses – 2 Samuel 15:7-9.

- In a premeditated plan that capitalized on his admiration of the people of Israel (falsely attained), Absalom declared himself to be king – 2 Samuel 15:10-13.
- David fled the city with heartache, trusting that if God favored him that God would bring about his return – 2 Samuel 15:25, 30

ABSALOM’S DEATH | 2 SAMUEL 18:1-19:43

- In short order, there were thousands that sided with the old King. An army was gathered, and this army went against Absalom’s army.
- David gave clear instructions: **deal gently for my sake with the young man** (2 Sam. 18:5).
- The battle was gruesome, and thousands died. The battle is briefly described in 2 Samuel 18:6-8.
- The death of Absalom is one of the most famous deaths in all of the Bible. Absalom was accidentally hanged from a tree by his hair, then killed by Joab – 2 Samuel 18:9-17.
- The news of Absalom’s death was devastating to David – 2 Samuel 18:24-33

ABSALOM’S TOMB | 2 SAMUEL 18:18

- Absalom had prepared a pillar in his own honor during his lifetime.
- To this day, there is a “tomb of Absalom” in Jerusalem, in the Kidron Valley. It is now believed to have been constructed about the first century, but for hundreds of years was believed to be the burial place of Absalom.
- For centuries, it was the custom of passers-by to throw stones at the tomb. Another custom was to take rebellious children to the tomb to show what happens to the rebellious.

THE LIFE OF ABSALOM: LESSONS LEARNED

- Lesson 1: *not all things are what they seem*. There was so much contrast and duplicity in Absalom’s life. One would be poorly served by evaluating Absalom based on appearances.
- Lesson 2: *people are easily swayed*. Work to be the kind of man or woman that isn’t taken up in the moment.
- Lesson 3: It could be that Absalom is a *type* of the nation of Israel, with David being a *type* of the Messiah.