

- I) V1-6 INTRO: After this it happened that Absalom *provided himself* with chariots and horses
 - a) This morning we will once again see repercussions due to David's sin
 - 1) We will see a betrayal that would break any father's heart: a son intentionally destroying
 - 2) Ex 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you
- II) KEY: Absalom had been in self imposed exile for three years, and then for two years was isolated
 - a) After forcing a meeting with Joab, Absalom finally met with his father and David forgave him
 - 1) IMPORTANT: From David's perspective, he and his son have reconciled
 - 2) SOON AFTER THIS: Absalom began laying the foundations for a *hostile takeover* of the kingdom
- III) KEY: From all outer appearances, things seem to be fine between David and his son
 - a) From Absalom's perspective, it is time for a regime change and he goes about fostering it
- IV) IF YOU: Wanted to undermine somebody, how would you go about it
 - a) This kind of thing happens often in the workplace, friendships, and even in churches
 - 1) QUESTIONS: What tactics can be used to steal a position of importance?
 - 2) We can see such tactics by examining what Absalom did to achieve such an end
- V) V1 SAYS: He provided *for himself* chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him
 - a) REASON: These were symbols of royalty and they gave to him an *appearance of importance*
 - 1) *FIRST*: He took advantage of his present position to put himself in the limelight
 - 2) SYMBOLS: Communicate powerful messages (name recognition drives marketing)
- VI) TO THE PEOPLE: Absalom appearing in public in such a fashion was something to be expected
 - a) AFTER ALL: He was a king's son, and they would have felt that such behavior was normal
 - 1) IT IS LIKE: Hollywood celebrities arriving at the Oscar's in limos
 - 2) This made him seem important: Like actors giving their opinions on climate change/politics
- VII) V2 NOW: Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate (where cases were settled)
 - a) *SECOND*: He showed up early, giving an appearance of being a hard worker and diligent
 - 1) It appeared to others that he cared about how things were going, *and could act immediately*
 - 2) SOME: Think nobody cares if somebody is not there exactly *when they need them*
- VIII) V2-3 *THIRD*: Whenever anyone with a lawsuit came to the king for a decision Absalom would talk to
 - a) ACCESSIBLE: He gave the impression that he really cared for them (he had outward compassion)
 - 1) People came to get grievances settled, so he had a group of disgruntled people to speak to
 - 2) By asking where they were from, he gave the impression of *genuine concern for them*
 - 3) Easy accessibility and apparent personal attention goes a long way
- IX) V3 THEN: Absalom would say to him Look your case is good and right but there is no deputy of the
 - a) *FOURTH*: He fostered a belief that the king was *too busy* to be concerned for them
 - 1) The king is *too busy* and old to help you, and obviously his other sons don't care
 - 2) KEY: He is saying David does not have the wisdom to appoint help, so people are being hurt
- X) ALSO: By saying their case is a good one, he is saying he understood their pain and is on their side
 - a) Pr 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet
- I) V4 MOREOVER: Absalom would say Oh *that I were made judge* in the land and everyone who has any

- a) *FIFTH*: He made it appear that he was being overlooked for a position he was qualified for
 - 1) The people knew that he had been gone for three years and had recently returned
 - 2) This comment would move them to think that he had been treated unfairly (got sympathy vote)
- II) POINT: If he were in office, he would be just!
 - a) In reality, he was saying *they were right* and by agreeing with them, won their loyalty
 - 1) People always want you to agree with them and to say they are the wronged party!
 - 2) Pr 18:17 The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.
- III) V5-6 AND: So it was whenever anyone came near to *bow down to him* that he would put out his hand
 - a) *SIXTH*: He presented himself as *one of them*, charming and loveable: he won them by charm
 - 1) The people came to the king, *who was available to them*, but were convinced he was not
 - 2) Pr 11:9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.
 - 3) J. Vernon McGee: Absalom was a bad son but a good politician. Many politicians have no qualifications other than the fact that they are good at handshaking and backslapping. Today there are many preachers who use this method. They cannot preach, and they cannot teach, but they sure can slap backs. Unfortunately that is exactly what appeals to us.
- IV) V7-9 NOW: It came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king Please let me go to Hebron
 - a) BRIEFLY: The number forty is contested because it does not fit with the biblical outline
 - 1) David only ruled 40 years (2 Sa 5:4) and Absalom was born after David began to rule (2 Sa 2:4)
 - 2) This did not occur at the end of David's reign, so the number is suspect
 - 3) Conservative scholars believe the number to be a copyist's error, and the correct number is 4
- V) POINT: Absalom claims that while he was exiled in Syria, he had made a vow to God to make sacrifice there
 - a) Since Absalom was born in Hebron, David was crowned king in Hebron, he wanted to sacrifice there
 - 1) Sacrifices were made in that city before the building of the temple, so this was common
- VI) TACTIC: Absalom used his father's *religious faith* as a tool against him
 - a) Like when a high school aged girl asked me for a bulletin, after church services to show her dad
 - 1) OBVIOUSLY: People still use religion to deceive people
- VII) V10-11 THEN: Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel saying As soon as you hear
 - a) These spies were there to see what people thought of him, and to influence them on his behalf
 - 1) By taking leading men, it gave the impression that the king was behind what he was doing
 - 2) These men were unaware of his plans, so they went along willingly
- VIII) V12 THEN: Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite David's counselor from his city from Giloh
 - a) KEY: Ahithophel is Bathsheba's grandfather who may have desired revenge on David
 - 1) As Absalom was making his sacrifices in Hebron, he sent to Ahithophel to join him
 - 2) Through all these efforts, the conspiracy gained momentum
- IX) V13 NOW: A messenger came to David saying *The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom*
 - a) As is true with such things, it was only a matter of time until what was occurring was revealed
 - 1) This may have been one of the 200 men who went with Absalom and disapproved
- I) V14-16 SO DAVID SAID: To all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem Arise and let us flee

- a) David knew the temper of his son, and knew what his son was capable of doing
 - 1) Instead of trying to reason with him, he wisely chose to abandon the city to spare lives
 - 2) His ministers and officers saw the reason for this, and supported his decision to leave
 - 3) He left behind 10 concubines, to look after the house

- II) AT THIS TIME: David wrote a psalm related to what happened
 - a) Ps 3:4-8 I cried to the LORD with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. Selah I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set *themselves* against me all around. Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation *belongs* to the LORD. Your blessing *is* upon Your people. Selah

- III) V17-18 AND: The king went out with all the people after him and stopped at the outskirts
 - a) David begins to leave, and waited on the outskirts of the city as the people assembled
 - 1) Among his servants were the Cherethites and Pelethites: his personal bodyguards
 - 2) AMONGST HIS PERSONAL BODYGUARD: Were men of Gath, Philistines who loved him

- IV) V19-20 THEN: The king said to Ittai the Gittite Why are you also going with us Return and remain
 - a) Ittai led the 600 soldiers, and had only recently joined him
 - 1) David says, remain here and join Absalom as you have no obligation to be with me
 - 2) Return to Jerusalem with your men, and may God show you kindness for your loyalty

- V) FACT: Ittai knew David and respected him in a way that Absalom did not
 - a) Sometimes your own children do not see you like others see you
 - 1) Mk 6:4 Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house

- VI) V21 BUT ITTAI: Answered the king and said As the LORD lives and as my lord the king lives surely
 - a) I will go with you, encounter dangers with you, and if need be *I will die with you*
 - 1) Pr 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for (to support) adversity (distress)
 - 2) With loyal friends like this, great things can be accomplished
 - 3) Normally at the first sign of trouble, people bail

- VII) V22-23 SO DAVID: Said to Ittai Go and cross over Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the
 - a) Ittai's refusal to abandon him was met with approval and he took the men and family across

- VIII) AND: All the country wept with a loud voice and all the people crossed over The king himself also
 - a) They wept over Absalom's evil towards his father, and they wept as David left his beloved city
 - 1) They left the outskirts, crossing the Brook Kidron and went in to the wilderness

- IX) INTERESTINGLY: Later, Jesus would cross over this same brook as He went to the Mt of Olives
 - a) David crosses the brook to save his life, Jesus crossed the same brook to prepare to lay His down