

## The Tragic Story of Absalom

Imagine a man who was young, handsome, energetic, ambitious, wealthy, powerful, and charismatic. Would you want to be friends with someone like that? Would you want your daughter to marry someone like that?

Absalom had all of these qualities. But he was also deceiving, hot-tempered and disrespectful. He was someone who went about achieving his goals using corrupt and wicked methods. The story preserved of him by God is one of the most tragic in all of scripture.

### I. **Facts Facts about Absalom:**

- A. He was one of the sons of **David** (2 Samuel 3:3).
  - 1. He was the third oldest son.
  - 2. His mother was Maachah. She was the daughter of the king of Geshur.
- B. He was extremely **handsome**.
  - 1. There were no defects on him (2 Samuel 14:25).
  - 2. He also had extremely long hair (2 Samuel 14:26).
- C. He was very **charming** (2 Samuel 15:6).
- D. He was **treacherous** (2 Samuel 15:7ff).
- E. He was **heartless**. He killed his own brother (2 Samuel 13:24ff).
- F. He was **ambitious** (2 Samuel 15:1-6). After reconciling with David, even though he was heir to the throne, he formed and executed a plot to remove David.

### II. **Absalom's tragic story...**

- A. Involves **deception**.
  - 1. He deceived the people into thinking he cared about them and would be a better king to them than his father (2 Samuel 15:1-4).
  - 2. He would manipulate and flatter people to get them on his side (2 Samuel 15:5-6).
- B. Involves **betrayal**.
  - 1. By working to usurp the throne, Absalom was stabbing his father in the back!
  - 2. He actually succeeded in gaining a strong enough support group (a faction) to remove David. He went to Hebron and had the people declare him the new king.
  - 3. He even stole away David's most trusted counselor (Ahithophel)!
- C. Involves **heart break**.
  - 1. David was extremely saddened by having to flee Jerusalem in fear for his life from his own son. He wrote about this experience in the Psalm 3.
  - 2. This is certainly one of the saddest scenes in the Bible!

### III. **What can we learn?**

- A. Righteous people can have **wicked children**
  - 1. We see this with David and his sons Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah.
  - 2. We see this with Eli and his sons (1 Samuel 2:12ff).
  - 3. We see this with Hezekiah and his wicked son Manasseh (2 Kings 18-21).
- B. **Inner** beauty is what is most important! See 1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 23:27-28).
- C. Wicked methods lead to ultimate **failure** !
  - 1. While Absalom used wicked methods to accomplish his goals, in the end God made sure he paid for his deeds (2 Samuel 18:1-15).
  - 2. The same will happen to us if we are like him (Galatians 6:7-8)!