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## Conflict with Absalom Second Samuel 13:23 to 14:33

As Warren Wiersbe describes in his commentary on **Second Samuel**, the first ten chapters of **Second Samuel** reveal how **YHVH** empowered **David** to defeat **Isra'el's** enemies and establish and expand the Kingdom. Then **David** committed the sins of adultery, murder and deception in **Chapters 11** and **12**, and the rest of the book describes **David** wrestling with the problems caused by **his** own children. **His** days are dark and disappointing, but he still relied on **ADONAI**, and **God** enabled **David** to overcome and prepare the Gentile nations for the reign of **his** son **Solomon**.



Absalom is the main character in this part of the play, for it was Absalom who helped to turn the drama into a tragedy. There were three heirs to David's throne: Amnon, the first born, Absalom his third son, and Adonijah. When confronted with Nathan's parable about the rich man and the poor man, David had declared: The man who did this must pay for the lamb four times over (Second Samuel 12:6), and David would pay dearly four times over with the deaths of four of his sons. First, Bathsheba's infant son died. The LORD had warned David that the sword would never depart from his house and Absalom, which ironically means peaceful, was the first to take up the sword.

Secondly, Absalom killed his brother Amnon for raping his sister Tamar, then thirdly, Joab killed Absalom during the battle of Mount Ephraim, and fourthly, Adonijah was slain for trying to usurp the throne from Solomon (First Kings 2:12-25).

**David** was reigning as **king** over **Isra'el**, but sin and death were reigning within **his** own family **(Romans 14, 17** and **21)**. **ADONAI** had forgiven **David's** sins **(Second Samuel** 



12:13), but the consequences for those forgiven sins were very painful. Ha'Shem had blessed David with many sons (First Chronicles 28:5), but now the LORD would turn some of those blessings into curses (Malachi 2:1-2). Later, Jeremiah would say it this way: Your own wickedness will correct you, your own backsliding will convict you; you will know and see how bad and bitter it was to abandon ADONAI your God, and how fear of Me is not in you, says Adonai ELOHIM-T'zva'ot (Jeremiah 2:19 CJB).