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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).**[362]