

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