

# Absalom's Rebellion

2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33

## Introduction:

- , Let each student estimate how much the hair on their head weighs. Compare this to Absalom's 5 pound mop that he cut off each year.
- , If you were trying to take over the United States, how would you do it?
- , If you regained your kingdom after a coup, how would you punish the guilty party?
- , Look at the picture from the story. What would you do if you had a son who was rebelling against you?



## Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, bless our study today so that we may grow in the grace and knowledge of Your Word. Be with us today and always. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

## The Story - 2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33 (Paraphrased)

Absalom, David's son, killed his half-brother Amnon who had defiled his sister Tamar. Because of this, Absalom fled from Jerusalem to Syria and stayed there for three years. David was concerned about his son and mourned for him daily.

Joab, David's commander-in-chief, devised a clever scheme to get David to permit Absalom to return to Jerusalem in peace. David agreed with Joab's request and Absalom returned to Jerusalem, but he did not see David for two more years.

We learn that Absalom was a very good-looking man with an abundant amount of hair. He was considered the most handsome man in all of the land of Israel by many. At the end of each year,

Absalom cut his hair because it became too heavy for him. His hair weighed about five pounds.

Finally Absalom desired to see his father. When David heard this, he was very happy and called Absalom to him. King David was so happy that he kissed his son.

Absalom wanted David's throne and he tried to steal it by getting the people to rebel against the king. Absalom would sit outside the city gates and interfere with any business intended for the king. Absalom promised justice if he were made king. He eventually gained a large enough following to lead against the king in order to take over the throne. David



and his army fled Jerusalem so that he could spare the city from as much war and destruction as possible. David wept as he and his men climbed the Mount of Olives in escape. As David continued to confess his faith in God, Absalom took control of Jerusalem.

While David and his men wandered, they prepared themselves for battle against Absalom's army. David stayed behind as his men headed into battle. David told his generals to deal gently with his son. David's army defeated Absalom's army and caused Absalom to



flee on his mule. As Absalom passed under a tree, his head got caught among the branches, causing him to hang from the tree. When Joab approached Absalom, "he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree." II Sam. 18:14.

When David found out that his son was dead, he wept and said, "O my son Absalom-my son, my son Absalom-if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" II Sam. 18:33

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**Outer Aim - Absalom rebelled against his father, King David, and tried to steal the kingdom from him.**

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**What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions from the lesson.**

1. Who did Absalom kill?
2. Why did Absalom do this?
3. Where did Absalom go after this?
4. Why did Absalom come back?
5. How did Absalom get many people to rebel against David?
6. Where did David and his army flee to get away from Absalom?
7. Who ended up winning the battle?

8. How did Absalom die?
9. How did David feel after he heard the news about Absalom's death?

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### **Inner Aim - The Lord will deliver us from all evil.**

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#### **What God Tells** Discuss these questions.

1. Do you think David was afraid of Absalom? Why or why not?
2. When Absalom took over Jerusalem, David's faith in God did not waver. What does this tell us about David's relationship with God?
3. How did God protect David through this battle?
4. God delivered David from the evils Absalom wanted to commit to David. What Petition of the Lord's Prayer talks about God preserving us from evil?

#### **Your Turn** - Use ideas from the story, passages, and hymn to help you discuss the following.

- < If God will deliver us from all evil, then why do we still have problems in our lives?
- < In spite of all that David went through (his son Amnon being murdered, his kingdom being torn from him by his son Absalom, being cursed at, and finally Absalom's death) David still manages to praise God and confess his faith in him. What can we learn from David's attitude when we deal with the problems in our lives?
- < After David found out that Absalom died, he said that it would have been better for him to die instead of Absalom. Why did David say this?
- < What should this reply of David make us want to do with the unbelievers that we meet in our lives?
- < God has called us to faith through the Holy Spirit because of Jesus's perfect life, death, and resurrection. Because of this we should want to confess our faith in Christ to all we meet despite all the evils that come our way.

**Passages** - Tell how each passage relates to the account of Absalom's rebellion.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Acts 14:22 "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2 Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.

1 Peter 1:5 - who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

**Hymn** - TLH 428 v. 1, 2, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;  
I am trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free!

I am trusting Thee for pardon;  
At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, In today's lesson, we learned that You delivered King David from his troubles with Absalom. But King David, along with all other people, have a bigger problem. This problem is sin. In our life on earth, we face all sorts of temptation from the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. Whenever we fall into sin, call us to repentance and restore us unto Your fold. Give us strength to endure all the various trial and tribulations that come our way. We know that You can and will deliver us from every evil. In Jesus' saving Name. Amen.