

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 13–14 | “Amnon Rapes Tamar”

I. THE RAPE OF TAMAR. (13)

A. (v. 1)

1. **“And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar;...”**

a. Absalom and Tamar were both from David’s wife *Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur* (2 Sam. 3:3).

b. “fair” - Heb. “beautiful; lovely”

1) Tamar was very beautiful, and we’ll see that Absalom is very handsome (2 Sam. 14:25-26), so it seems that Maacah produces good-looking kids. Also, Absalom will have a daughter that is beautiful (2 Sam. 14:27), so it’s just in their genes!

2. **“...and Amnon the son of David loved her.”**

a. Amnon was David’s firstborn son from Ahinoam the Jezreelitess (2 Sam. 3:2), thus he is the half-brother of Absalom and Tamar.

b. “loved her”

1) This is one of the tragedies of the English language because we have one word (“love”) that covers a broad spectrum of experience and emotions.

a) I *love* my wife, but I also *love* hot fudge sundaes.

b) I *love* my mom, but I also *love* football.

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- c) I *love* my kids, but I also *love* my dog Daisy.
 - d) The love I have for my kids is much different than my love for my dog Daisy. Also, the love that I have for my wife is much different than my love for hot fudge sundaes.
 - e) The English language can be so deficient because there is only one word to express such a broad spectrum of feeling.
 - i. The Greek language is far more expressive than the English language. There are 3 different words for love:
 - a. *Eros* - “*erotic passion*”
 - i. This is the love that Hollywood always pushes.
 - b. *Phileo* - “*brotherly, friendship love*”
 - c. *Agape* - “*sacrificial, divine love*”
- 2) Amnon does not really “*love*” Tamar, but only has that sexual passion (i.e. *lust*).
- a) He was attracted to her physically, and had a strong desire for her sexually, but this was not really *love* at all.
 - b) **NOTE:** True love is other-centered rather than self-centered.
 - i. Cf. **1 Corinthians 13:5** - The Apostle Paul says that TRUE LOVE “*does not*

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seek its own” (NKJV), “is not self-seeking” (NIV), or “does not insist on its own way” (ESV).

- c) **KEY:** True love is a giving love ([John 3:16](#)), not self-seeking ([1 Cor. 13:5](#)) or taking love!
- d) So much of what we call *love* is self-centered.
 - i. **NOTE:** Girls, be careful when a guy says that he loves you. Many times he’s not really thinking of you, but thinking of himself and is trying to manipulate you into sexual things.

B. (v. 3)

- 1. **“But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.”**
 - a. *Jonadab* was David’s nephew from his brother Shimeah, which would make Jonadab a first cousin to *Amnon*, Absalom, and Tamar.

C. (v. 11)

- 1. **“And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.”**
 - a. “Come lie with me, my sister”

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- 1) Under the Law, incest was forbidden, even for a half-brother and half-sister ([Lev. 18:9, 11; 20:17](#)).

D. (v. 12)

1. “And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.”

a. “Nay, my brother, do not force me”

- 1) Tamar is clearly saying, “No,” here. This is not a consensual act.

b. Premarital sex was folly ([Gen. 34:7; Deut. 22:1-21](#)).

E. (v. 13)

1. “And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.”

a. Tamar’s response is:

- 1) Rape is forbidden in Israel.
- 2) She or he would have no future, and he would be regarded as a fool.
- 3) Let him ask David for her hand in marriage.

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F. (v. 15)

1. **“Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.”**
 - a. “Then Amnon hated her exceedingly”
 - 1) He did not truly love her, otherwise he never would have done this.
 - 2) **NOTE:** Let me give some advice to young ladies who may be in the position of Tamar: if a man truly loves you, he will not push you into a sexual relationship, but will wait until marriage.
 - a) So many guys have become master manipulators and know how to say the right things, buy you flowers, send you romantic notes, but if he starts to push you hard, over and over, to get you in bed, just know that after he does, the relationship will never last. Either you will never hear from him again, or he will end up cheating on you.
 - b) **KEY:** If you are interested in a guy that does not love the Lord with all of his heart, then he is not the right guy. You will save yourself a whole lot of heartache if you just move on and wait on the Lord.
 - 3) **Q** = Why do you think Amnon *hated her* after getting in bed with her?... Because reality is never as satisfying as the fantasy, and he probably felt guilty.

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G. (v. 18)

1. **“And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.”**

a. *“a garment of divers colours”*

1) **NOTE:** This is the exact same phrase used of Joseph’s *“coat of many colours”* ([Gen. 37:3](#)), and really has the idea of a *long* coat with *full sleeves*, a coat of royalty.

a) It may have been multicolored too, but that could just be a tradition based on the translation of the Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate.

H. (v. 37)

1. **“But Absalom fled, and went to Talmi, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.”**

a. *“Talmi, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur”*

1) *Talmi* is Absalom’s GRANDFATHER ([2 Sam. 3:3](#)) through his mother Maacah, the daughter of Talmi the king. Thus, Absalom is fleeing to his grandpa’s house in Geshur!

II. THE RETURN OF ABSALOM. (14)

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A. (v. 27)

1. “And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.”

a. “born three sons”

1) These sons had died young, thus they are not named. This is why Absalom will build a memorial pillar (2 Sam. 18:18), he had no surviving sons.

b. “one daughter”

1) Absalom named his daughter *Tamar*, after his sister, and she’s *beautiful* like her aunt.

B. (v. 33)

1. “So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.”

a. “and the king kissed Absalom”

1) This shows that David fully forgave Absalom and was reconciled to him. However, we will see in the next chapter that Absalom did not reconcile to David and is actually conspiring against David and his kingdom.

III. Sin Destroys Families, but Love and Forgiveness can Heal a Family.

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- A. Sin and Selfishness will tear families apart.**
- B. We need the LOVE of Jesus Christ in our hearts to overflow from the Holy Spirit.**
 - 1. Cf. [Galatians 5:22-23](#); [1 Corinthians 13](#)