



HE BRINGS *&* EXALTS
LOW

HOW THE LORD MAKES HIS GLORY KNOWN

The Story of Absalom and David (2 Samuel 13-20)

This passage “operates” like an eight-episode television show within a cinematic universe full of movies

Introduces many new people in rapid succession who are brought low or exalted as Absalom contends against David

Shows the complexities of sin and the many ways people contend with and against the LORD and his anointed

How does sin affect generations *and how can we change course?*

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The modeled behavior of parents teaches their children what sins are "acceptable" and "permissible"

Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her.

2 Samuel 13:1-2 ESV

But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

2 Samuel 13:11 ESV

She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you."

2 Samuel 13:12-13 ESV

But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." **But he would not listen to her.**

2 Samuel 13:14-16 ESV

After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

2 Samuel 13:23 ESV

Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled.

2 Samuel 13:28-29 ESV

So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

2 Samuel 13:37-39 ESV

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2 Samuel 13:39 ESV

And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the third, **Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur**; and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; and the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

2 Samuel 2:2-5 ESV

Polygamy in David's life

David's many wives are a function of political treaties and power

And [the king] shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

Deuteronomy 17:17 ESV

Polygamy in David's life

David's many wives are a function of political treaties and power

David's many wives show a pattern of David ignoring God's law

You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 ESV

Polygamy in David's life

David's many wives are a function of political treaties and power

David's many wives show a pattern of David ignoring God's law

Absalom's mother is from a tribe the Israelites were not to marry

Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, "You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess. This is the land that yet remains: all the regions of the Philistines, and all those of the Geshurites... Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day.

Joshua 13:1-2, 13 ESV

Polygamy in David's life

David's many wives are a function of political treaties and power

David's many wives show a pattern of David ignoring God's law

Absalom's mother is from a tribe the Israelites were not to marry

Absalom is from a people that the Israelites were to drive out

So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

2 Samuel 13:39 ESV

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So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country, and **the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.**

2 Samuel 18:6-8 ESV

Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, "We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!" So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 20:1-2 ESV

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When one generation is unwilling to root out sin it becomes a normalized pattern for future generations

The logical end of generational sin is the "decreation" of God's design for the individual, family, community, and kingdom

How does sin affect generations *and how can we change course?*

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How does sin affect generations *and how can we change course?*

Parents must model confession and repentance in such a way that both become acceptable and permissible practices for their children

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What are the characteristics of true repentance?

Recognize the LORD's sovereignty and confess your sin to him

Reject the idea that your sin does not have consequences in this life

Recommit your focus on the LORD's character

Return to doing what the LORD has called you to do

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We must find our stability in Christ who reigns rather than putting our faith in men or man-centered institutions

