

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## David's Family Troubles Begin

- David's son Amnon fell in love with his half-sister Tamar [2 Sam 13:1-2].
  - Amnon was David's son by his wife Ahinoam the Jezreelitess [2 Sam 3:2].
  - Tamar was the sister of Absalom and they were David's children by his wife Maacah [2 Sam 3:3].
  - Tamar was a beautiful virgin and Amnon loved her (אָהַב `aheb = love, including carnal desires) [v. 1].
  - Two other women in the Bible are named Tamar.
    - ✦ The daughter-in-law of Judah [Gen 38:11-26].
    - ✦ A daughter of Absalom [2 Sam 14:27].
  - Amnon's desire for Tamar was so strong that he made himself sick when he realized could not win her affections [v. 2].
- Amnon's friend Jonadab devised a scheme for him to get Tamar's attention [2 Sam 13:3-5].
  - Jonadab is Amnon's cousin, being the son of David's brother Shimeah (Shimea) [1 Chr 2:13].
  - Jonadab was a shrewd man (חָכָם chacam = shrewd, crafty, cunning) [v. 3].
  - Jonadab's plan was for Amnon to play ill and get David to send Tamar to tend to him [v. 5].
- Amnon followed Jonadab's plan and then lured Tamar to the bedroom [2 Sam 13:6-10].
  - David was unaware of Jonadab's scheme, so he innocently sent Tamar to tend to Amnon [v. 7].
  - Tamar did exactly what David asked of her [v. 8], but Amnon refused to eat [v. 9a].
  - Amnon sent everyone away [v. 9b] so he could lure Tamar into the bedroom [v. 10].
- Once Amnon had Tamar alone with him in the bedroom, he raped her [2 Sam 13:11-14].
  - First, Amnon asked Tamar to sleep with him voluntarily [v. 11].
  - Tamar refused, knowing that such things are disgraceful and forbidden [v. 12 cf. Lev 20:17].
  - Tamar knew they would both be a reproach, but she was willing to marry Amnon [v. 13].
  - Amnon did not even consider Tamar's offer and tried to satisfy his lusts by raping her [v. 14].
- The violent act did not satisfy Amnon and his lusts turned to hatred [2 Sam 13:15-19].
  - Amnon's hatred was so strong that he asked Tamar to leave [v. 15].
  - Tamar refused to leave because she knew what the Law required [v. 16 cf. Deut 22:28-29].
  - Amnon had Tamar thrown out [vv. 17-18].
  - This whole incident devastated Tamar [v. 19].
- Absalom found out about the rape and became terribly upset [2 Sam 13:20-22].
  - Absalom told Tamar to keep the matter quiet which usurped David's authority [v. 20].
  - When David found out about what happened he became angry (partly at himself?) [v. 21].
  - Absalom did not confront Amnon and his anger toward Amnon festered [v. 22].

- After Absalom's anger had festered for two full years, he decided to exact his revenge against Amnon [2 Sam 13:23-29].
  - Absalom hosted a festival to celebrate the time for sheepshearing [v. 23].
  - This was a longstanding custom [1 Sam 25:2-8].
  - Absalom tried to get David to join him in Baal-hazor, but David refused [vv. 24-25].
  - Absalom asked David if Amnon could go [v. 26a].
  - David reluctantly agreed and allowed his other sons to go as well [vv. 26b-27].
  - In the midst of the festivities Absalom's servants killed Amnon on Absalom's cue [vv. 28-29].
- David received the report of what happened at Baal-hazor [2 Sam 13:30-36].
  - Initially, David was told that all his sons were dead at the hand of Absalom [v. 30].
  - David and his servants responded with grief by tearing their clothes [v. 31].
  - Jonadab informed David that only Amnon had died as a result of Absalom's revenge [vv. 32-33].
  - The palace watchman saw that David's sons were coming, but Absalom had fled [v. 34].
  - Jonadab announced the arrival of David's sons as proof of what he told David, and everyone wept because of Amnon's death [vv. 35-36].
- Absalom fled to Geshur (to his grandfather Talmai the King) and stayed there for three years [2 Sam 13:37-38].
- David, being comforted concerning Amnon, longed for Absalom to return [2 Sam 13:39].
- David's sin was before him – a sexual offense was followed by a murder in his own family.