

DAVID AND ABSALOM: A FATHER/SON STORY

Of all of David's sons, in my observation, none were more like David than his son, Absalom. Of all the tragic stories in the Bible, none equals the angst that this story brings to my heart.

I. THEIR SIMILARITIES

A. IN LOOKS

I Samuel 16:12

II Samuel 14:25

It is not unusual to read of ladies in the Bible who are referred to as beautiful, but I have searched the Scriptures and it appears the only two men who are attributed with physical beauty in the Bible are David and Absalom.

It is significant to take note that Lucifer is attributed with beauty.

Ezekiel 28:12, 17: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.... Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee." II Corinthians 11:14: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

The Bible's view of the duplicity of physical beauty:

Proverbs 6:25: "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

Proverbs 31:30: "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." Everything that glistens is not gold.

God's discriminating appraisal of beauty:

I Samuel 16:17; II Corinthians 10:7

I Peter 3:3, 4

Psalm 51:6

Romans 7:22

II Corinthians 4:16

Genesis 29:17 says, "Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured." Our Lord came to us through Leah, not Rachel. Isaiah 53:2: "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." Isaiah 52:14: "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men." It is who Christ is that attracted us to Him. There is a beauty of holiness that goes beyond the wounded exterior of His person! Psalm 96:9: "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth."

B. IN LEADERSHIP

I Samuel 22:2

II Samuel 15:6

II Samuel 15:13

II. THEIR DIFFERENCES

A. THEIR HERITAGE

1. David's:

Ruth 4:21, 22; I Samuel 17:56, 58

2. Absalom's:

II Samuel 3:3; Numbers 33:55; Joshua 13:13; Joshua 23:9-13; Judges 2:2, 3; I Samuel 27:8; Deuteronomy 21:10-17; II Samuel 13:37, 38

B. THEIR MOTIVATION

1. David's heart:

I Samuel 13:14

Acts 13:22

2. Absalom's heart:

II Samuel 15:3-6

III. THEIR TRAGEDY

A. ABSALOM'S VENGEANCE

II Samuel 13:22, 28, 29

I Chronicles 28:5, 6

B. DAVID'S DIFFICULTY

II Samuel 14:14, 24, 28, 32 (compare Revelation 22:4; II Corinthians 3:18)

C. ABSALOM'S REBELLION

II Samuel 15:12

D. ABSALOM'S DEATH

II Samuel 18:9-18; 32,33

LESSONS:

A. WE CAN OVERCOME OUR NATURAL SETBACKS.

Deuteronomy 5:9b, 10: "...for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments." Joel 2:25, "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."

B. SHOW MERCY WHEN GIVEN A CHANCE.

Matthew 12:20; Matthew 9:12, 13; Matthew 12:7; Luke 15:20

C. HONOR YOUR PARENTS.

Deuteronomy 5:16

I Samuel 22:3, 4

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.