

Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 14:25-33

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2 Samuel 14:25-33

(For more information about Absalom, David's son and Israel's Crown Prince after Amnon's murder, read 2 Samuel 13:1 – 14:24 and the exegetical notes prepared for those passages.)

Verses 25-26

²⁵ *In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.* ²⁶ *Whenever he cut the hair of his head—he used to cut his hair once a year because it became too heavy for him—he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard.*

- Absalom was a very handsome man. His hair was very thick and beautiful. Though he was rightly beautiful, there seems to be an implication of vanity in this description of him.

Verse 27

²⁷ *Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. His daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.*

- Absalom had three children. He named his daughter, Tamar, after his sister who had been raped by their half-brother, Amnon. In revenge for his sister's rape, Absalom had murdered Amnon.

Verse 28

²⁸ *Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.*

- After killing Amnon, who was Israel's crown prince before Absalom murdered him, Absalom fled to his grandfather, Talmai, the king of Geshur. He lived in exile for three years until he was allowed to return to Israel by his father, King David. However, in those three years, he had not been

invited to return to David's court. In three years, the king and the crown prince had not spoken to each other nor even been in each other's presence.

- Even after Absalom returned to Jerusalem, he was not reunited with his father, King David, for two years.

Verses 29-31

²⁹ Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come. ³⁰ Then he said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹ Then Joab did go to Absalom's house, and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

- Absalom was not satisfied with the distance between him and his father, King David. So he sent for Joab, the commander of David's army. His intention was to ask Joab to speak to the king on his behalf. However, Joab did not go to Absalom as Absalom had requested. Joab ignored Absalom. He requested Joab to come to him twice and twice Joab refused.
- Absalom had a field which neighbored a field owned by Joab. Absalom ordered his servants to burn the crops growing in Joab's field. They were not to act in secret but openly so that Joab knew who had burned his field.
- Joab then went to Absalom's house to demand an explanation.

Verses 32-33

³² Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!"' Now then, I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death."

³³ So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

- Absalom told Joab that he had his field burned because he had ignored his call for help. Absalom explained that he wanted to be restored to the king's favor or executed for his crimes.
- So, Joab went to King David with Absalom's request.
- The King summoned Absalom to come to him.

- When Absalom came to David he fell on his face before his father, the king. He paid proper respect to his father as Israel's king.
- David welcomed Absalom and received him without any conditions. David welcomed Absalom home.

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