

A Study of 2 Samuel 13

I. Outline. **THE BEGINNING OF THE LORD'S JUDGMENT ON DAVID FOR HIS SINS...**

1. **David's son, Amnon, has a very strong infatuation with his half-sister, Tamar (1-5).** Note the Hebrew grammar of the verb *BE SICK* (v. 5 & 6) describes not a real sickness, but one pretended to entrap Tamar [NET Bible notes].
2. **Following the advice of Jonadab, and with David's unknowing consent, Amnon schemes to have incestuous sexual relations with Tamar, even to the extent of rape (6-14).**
3. **Amnon's "love" (lust) turned now to extreme hatred and he dismissed Tamar in disgrace (15-18).**
4. **By her actions, Tamar makes a public declaration of grief, shame, and loss; the advice given her by Absalom, her full brother, was as terrible as Jonadab's was to Amnon (19-20).**
5. **David is very angry at these developments, BUT does nothing by way of correction (21-22).**
LXX has a longer version of verse 21. Notice it in section IV below.
6. **Amnon finally plots an opportunity to murder Amnon (23-27).**
7. **Absalom follows his father's methodology in getting Amnon drunk; and he gives the command to murder his brother (28-29).**
8. **Amnon is killed and an exaggerated report that all of David's sons reached David, then was corrected by Jonadab (30-36).**
9. **Absalom flees to the protection of King Talmi of Geshur, remaining 3 years and David greatly missed Absalom his son (37-39).**

II. Summary.

The beginning of terrible trials and heartaches for King David (*that Nathan warned David was coming because of his sinful behavior*) is certainly a powerful witness against ever following David's ways! The truthfulness of Romans 15:4 surely shines forth here. To compare the home as God would have it: ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN TOGETHER FOR LIFE is absolutely **superior** to the heathenistic practice David allowed himself to follow. He did so when he took multiple wives and was not even satisfied with many wives, but took someone else's wife. David was reaping the whirlwind (Hosea 8.7), of his lustful behavior. How could David be a real husband/father in the Bible sense to so many wives/children and lead and guide them in the ways of faithfulness to the Lord? From the record we have, it seems David had pretty much given up effort to serve as a genuine biblical husband or father to so many.

Here, in chapter 13, we find one of his sons raping one of his daughters, then casting her aside. One of his sons taking revenge on that son by murdering his brother and fleeing to his in-laws, depriving David of the fellowship of a son he really loved.

III. Chronology/Lists.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the United Kingdom.

If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/wl79hp7>

LIST OF CHARACTERS:

1. **Absalom...** “1. [Heb. *’abšālôm*—‘father is (or ‘of’) peace’]; also **ABISHALOM** ə-bish’ə-ləm [Heb. *’abšālôm*] (1 K. 15:2, 10). David’s third son by Maacah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur (a small country between Hermon and Bashan). Absalom was born at Hebron (2 S. 3:3), and moved at an early age, with the transfer of the capital, to Jerusalem, where he spent most of his life. He was a great favorite of his father and of the people as well. His charming manners, his personal beauty, his ingratiating ways, together with his love of pomp and royal pretensions, captivated the hearts of the people from the beginning. He lived in great style and drove in a magnificent chariot with fifty men running before him. Such magnificence produced the desired effect upon the hearts of the young aristocrats of the royal city (15:1ff). When Amnon his half-brother ravished his sister Tamar, and David shut his eyes to the grave crime and neglected to administer proper punishment, Absalom became justly enraged, yet quietly nourished his anger. After a lapse of two years he carried out a successful plan to avenge the rape of Tamar. He made a great feast for the king’s sons at Baal-hazor, to which, among others, Amnon came, only to meet his death at the hands of Absalom’s servants (2 S. 13:1ff). To avoid punishment Absalom fled to the court of his maternal grandfather in Geshur, where he remained until David had relented and condoned the murderous act of his impetuous, plotting son.”—*ISBE*.
2. **Tamar...** (3.) A daughter of David (2 Sam. 13:1–32; 1 Chr. 3:9), whom Amnon shamefully outraged and afterwards “hated exceedingly,” thereby illustrating the law of human nature noticed even by the heathen, “*Proprium humani ingenii est odisse quem laeseris*”, i.e., “It is the property of human nature to hate one whom you have injured.” [M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).].
3. **Amnon...** 1. The eldest son of David, by Ahinoam of Jezreel (2 S. 3:2). As the crown prince and heir presumptive to the throne, he was intensely hated by Absalom, who was, therefore, doubly eager to revenge the outrage committed by Amnon upon his sister Tamar (2 S. 3:2; 13:1ff; 1 Ch. 3:1) —*ISBE*.
4. **Jonadab...** **Jonadab** (joh’nuh-dab; Heb., meaning uncertain, perhaps ‘Yahweh is noble’), a shortened form of Jehonadab. 1 The son of Shimeah (Shimea), David’s brother, and cousin of Amnon, David’s son. He gave Amnon the plan that led to Amnon’s rape of Tamar, his half-sister (2 Sam. 13:3–5). It is possible that he is the same nephew of David elsewhere (erroneously?) called Jonathan (2 Sam. 21:21; 1 Chron. 20:7) —*Harper’s Bible Dictionary*.
5. **King Talmai...** **TALMAI, SON OF AMMIHUD** (תַּלְמַי, *talmay*). King of Geshur, father of Maacah, and grandfather of Absalom (2 Sam 3:3; 13:37; 1 Chr 3:2). Geshur was an Aramaean kingdom located east of the Sea of Galilee. The half-tribe of Manasseh in the Transjordan had failed to drive them out during the conquest (Deut 3:14; Josh 13:13), so Geshur continued as an independent kingdom. When Absalom fell out of favor with David for killing his brother Amnon, he fled to Talmai, his grandfather, for protection (2 Sam 13:34–39)—*The Lexham Bible Dictionary*.

LINKS:

1. Coffman on 2 Samuel 13: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/2-samuel-13.html>
2. Josephus on 2 Samuel 13: <https://tinyurl.com/w7mcrd5>
3. JFB Commentary on 2 Samuel 13: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/jamieson-fausset-brown/2-samuel/2-samuel-13.html>

4. A very interesting article by someone whom I do not know, but found the article online. Deirdre Brouer on 2 Samuel 13: <https://www.cbeinternational.org/resources/article/priscilla-papers/tamar%E2%80%99s-voice-wisdom-and-outrage-2-samuel-13>

IV. Thoughts on the TEXT.

1. **David's son, Amnon, has a very strong infatuation with his half-sister, Tamar (1-5).** Laws against this kind of love (which is obviously only LUST) did not have much force in the life of this rebel. He had learned from his father this sad way of thinking. The rape was tragic and should have been handled by the King, but it was not.
2. **Following the advice of Jonadab, and with David's unknowing consent, Amnon schemes to have incestuous sexual relations with Tamar, even to the extent of rape (6-14).** Satan always has his helpers who are quite willing to make it easier and well prepared to present plans for violating God's laws. Jonadab was that person in this scene. It seems obvious to me that David would not have sent Tamar to Amnon had he known the real reason she was invited. Obvious, as well, Tamar would never have gone had she known. David, though, has charge of these children as their father and he should have been better informed of the situation that is described in the first verses of this chapter. As a father, David is failing to live up to his responsibilities. Yet, how could he really serve as father to all the children his many wives had given him?
3. **Amnon's "love" (lust) turned now to extreme hatred and he dismissed Tamar in disgrace (15-18).** John MacArthur suggests that the hatred mentioned here "*was probably based on a degree of self-loathing as he saw the immense wickedness he had committed.*" Who can read these verses without seeing the wickedness of Amnon? the suffering of Tamar? the good reasoning of Tamar? Perhaps Tamar was thinking that this kind of dismissal would make it appear to others that she had initiated this sinful act. The way Amnon brought others into the situation, demanding that they throw her out and bolt the door behind her would add to that explanation.
4. **By her actions, Tamar makes a public declaration of grief, shame, and loss; the advice given her by Absalom, her full brother, was as terrible as Jonadab's was to Amnon (19-20).** Maybe Amnon hoped he could cover up his sin—wonder where he came up with such thinking? Tamar seems to realize it is impossible to do what both David and Amnon thought could be done regarding sin. Is there nothing to worry about when we commit sin? ONLY the most important matter ever considered: ETERNITY!
5. **David is very angry at these developments, BUT does nothing by way of correction (21-22).** LXX has a longer version of verse 21. Notice it in section IV below. David failed in meeting his obligations as KING and as FATHER to Tamar.
6. **Absalom finally plots an opportunity to murder Amnon (23-27).** We can sort of understand his feelings. What a terrible thing had been done to his sister. But he allowed his anger and desire for revenge to take over his life. Oh, the wisdom of: Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* This sheep-shearing feast would be held in the village of Hazor, about 12 miles northeast of Jerusalem. He invited all of his family, but there was one particular brother he really wanted to come.

7. **Absalom follows his father's methodology in getting Amnon drunk; and he gives the command to murder his brother (28-29).** David, Amnon, and Absalom all used their servants to do their "dirty work."
8. **Amnon is killed and an exaggerated report that all of David's sons reached David, then was corrected by Jonadab (30-36).**
9. **Absalom flees to the protection of King Talmai of Geshur, remaining 3 years and David greatly missed Absalom his son (37-39).** Here he would be under the protection of the king who was the grandfather of both Tamar and Absalom. David eventually accepted the fact of Amnon's death, but greatly missed his son Absalom.

V. Lessons & Applications.

1. The major lesson of this chapter is the horrible fruit of rebellion against the will of the Lord.
2. The terrible idea that a man can dominate a woman just because he is stronger physically is clear in this chapter.
3. The concept of receiving and acting upon very poor advice from a CRAFTY man is set forth in the person of Jonadab and his advice to Amnon.
4. David's lack of correcting matters that screamed out for correction shows how WEAKENED he became because of his sins of chapter 12.
5. The stupidity of Amnon in dismissing the one he violated and having zero sensitivity to her abandonment.
6. Sadness for Tamar is the normal response from this terrible scene that is so graphically set before us (vv. 18-19).
7. **HOLD NOW THY PEACE** (v. 20). Once again we have in this chapter some horrible advice from someone who, no doubt did love his sister, but had little understanding of right and wrong.
8. King David was rightfully **VERY WROTH** (v. 21), at the rape of his daughter, but, once again, he was evidently hampered (*in his own way of thinking*) because of his own sinfulness. He was angry, but there is no record that he did anything about it. The Septuagint (Greek translation of the OT), has more words at this verse. It includes: **AND HE DID NOT PUNISH THE SPIRIT OF AMNON, HIS SON, BECAUSE HE LOVED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS FIRST BORN.**
9. There was a **BURNING HATRED** of Amnon in the heart of Absalom which only grew with each passing day and arrived at the point that he would command that his servants strike him to death. How foolish to allow hatred to take control of one's life!!!
10. The practice of lying and deceit fell in place in the life of Absalom as he worked toward the goal of getting his revenge upon Amnon (v. 24). He will deceive his father by hiding his true intent in wanting Amnon to come to the sheep-shearing. Sin leads to sin, as in the so of his father, David.
11. Another example of using intoxicating drink to hamper the ability of an individual to resist one's will (28). David had done it with Uriah, his son, Absalom does it here.
12. It is possible to believe a lie (30-31), and it seems **VERY REAL**. So many people believe a lie and suppose themselves to be in a saved condition when they are not.
13. We are impressed with the unconditional love of David for his son (v. 39). The problem is that, like David, our love sometimes **BLINDS** to wrongdoing and the need for correction.

VI. Questions.

True or False

- 01. ____ Tamar was sent to Amnon by David.
- 02. ____ Tamar was not in favor of lying with Amnon.
- 03. ____ According to Tamar, Amnon committed an even greater evil than raping her.
- 04. ____ The first message to David about what Absalom had done was incorrect.
- 05. ____ After Absalom’s murder of his brother, he fled to Egypt.

I Found it in Verse(s)

- 06. ____ Amnon described as: LEAN.
- 07. ____ Something that ought not to be done in Israel.
- 08. ____ Someone was DESOLATE.
- 09. ____ Absalom said: SMITE AMNON.
- 10. ____ David longing for something.

Short Answer

11. They guy described as: A VERY SUBTIL (crafty, NJKV) MAN.

12. Where Amnon asked Tamar to bring the meat she prepared.

13. What Tamar put on her head.

14. WHY question David asked Absalom.

15. WHO wept along with David about the death of Amnon?

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to 2 Samuel 12 Questions... **01**—False (15); **02**—True (30); **03**—False (22-23); **04**—True (7); **05**—True (10); **06**—25; **07**—31; **08**—8; **09**—17; **10**—10; **11**—His anger was greatly kindled (5); **12**—Worshipped (20); **13**—such and such (8); **14**—when he saw that his servants whispered (19); **15**—the royal city (26).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL 5.82Wx6.32H

P	A	S	S	V	H	J	M	S	I	F
R	E	P	A	M	N	O	N	M	H	P
A	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	K	M	A
Y	M	A	I	I	D	A	V	I	D	B
E	E	K	S	R	R	D	G	N	P	O
C	A	M	E	G	A	A	A	G	G	L
O	T	S	A	I	D	B	R	T	S	T
M	T	H	I	N	G	S	M	H	I	A
E	F	K	A	K	B	A	E	E	S	M
G	O	V	D	O	M	L	N	N	T	A
L	O	V	E	B	R	O	T	H	E	R
J	F	O	R	C	E	M	V	B	R	T

ABSALOM	AMNON	ARISE	BOLT	BROTHER
CAME	COME	DAVID	FORCE	GAMENT
JONADAB	KING	LOVE	MEAT	PASS
PRAY	SAID	SERVANT	SISTER	SPEAK
TAMAR	THEN	THING	VIRGIN	

