

The Decline of a Prince

2 Samuel 13:22-39

Intro.

Absalom is a study of a long gradual slide into oblivion

- v 22 It begins with hatred and bitterness
Though justice was still an avenue open to him (8:18)
he fostered hatred.
- v 23 Shearing was a festive time and Absalom invited David, his servants
and brothers who were ministers.
- v 24 -27 He wanted David to grant permission to Amnon just as he gave
Tamar permission to go to Amnon.
- Bitterness ripened into vengeance.
- v 28 He then becomes defiant as he seeks Amnon's death. He
commanded his servants to act contrary to God's law assuring them
that he is above the law.
- He also becomes cruel. He wants Amnon killed amidst his being
"merry with wine."
- v 29 The sons fled as they feared a coup and a takeover. And within 10
years there would assuredly be a military coup.
- Absalom is now hostile to God.
- v 30 The promised sword is now unsheathed.
- v 31 He feels like Job!

- v 32 -33 An interesting parenthesis. Someone could have stopped him.
Jonadab knew what was being planned but did nothing to stop him.

(Prov. 24:10-12) But Absalom was alone.

Jonadab acted like a friend in getting him what he illicitly desired but
would not act as a friend in preventing his ruin. He never had
Absalom's best interests at heart. He sought only to ingratiate
himself to him and then to David.

- v 34 -36 All wept bitterly because of the catastrophic and disruptive nature
of the day.

A festive occasion became a crime scene of a murder.
The lineage of David was threatened.
Israel's leadership is suddenly unstable.

- v 37 Another son is "dead."

- v 38 For 3 years the family is in grief

- v 39 Time healed David's loss of Amnon, but he longs for Absalom
yet will not send for him.

Why? Bitterness! The cycle begins anew.

Concl.