



## Lesson 92

# Absalom's Rebellion

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> 2 Samuel 15:1-17</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> approx. 990 B.C.</li> <li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, David, Absalom, and Ahithophel</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> Absalom wins the hearts of the people and leverages his popularity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to depose David.</li> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> “ _____ ” (v 4)</li> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> <i>“And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.”</i> (v 13)</li> </ul> |
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### Review (2 Sam. 13:1-14:33)

1. Three years after Absalom had orchestrated Amnon's death, he was received back to Jerusalem under “house arrest.” Two years later, after feigning repentance of his evil deed, Absalom was restored to his \_\_\_\_\_ position. (14:33)

### Rebellion (2 Sam. 15:1-24)

2. Absalom began to worm his way into the hearts of the Hebrews and win their favor by:
  - (a) Magnifying his royal position through \_\_\_\_\_ entrances (15:1)
  - (b) Ingratiating the people by answering their civil disputes in their \_\_\_\_\_ (15:2-3)
  - (c) Manufacturing a \_\_\_\_\_ in the justice system (15:3-4)
  - (d) By his inherent charisma, charm, and \_\_\_\_\_ (14:25-26)
3. After Absalom had sufficiently duped enough people, he was ready to spring his trap and depose his own father.
  - (a) He did so by begging leave to go to Hebron to “pay my \_\_\_\_\_.” (15:7-8)
  - (b) Hebron was a place that was often used for offering sacrifices before the temple was built, and since David would've encouraged such godly \_\_\_\_\_, Absalom easily received permission to leave without any hint of suspicion.
4. Meanwhile, Absalom sent spies throughout the land to tell everyone that a trumpet would sound announcing his \_\_\_\_\_ as king. (15:10)
5. Absalom created an atmosphere of legitimacy by bringing two hundred powerful men as guests who were unaware of Absalom's intentions. In addition, he had won over influential power brokers, like Ahithophel. Incidentally, Ahithophel was Bathsheba's \_\_\_\_\_. (11:3; 23:24-39)
6. Word of Absalom's rise to power spread – eventually to David's palace. Instead of preparing to fight and defend Jerusalem, David commanded a hasty evacuation.

(15:13-17) Why do you think David made this decision? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Application

7. Verse 7 mentions forty years without reference to a starting point. Since it couldn't refer to Absalom's age or the length of David's reign, it could be referring to when Samuel first warned the Hebrews of the folly in wanting a king, saying, *"This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his \_\_\_\_\_, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots."* (1 Sam. 8:11) Absalom was exactly what Samuel had warned against.
8. Absalom's treachery knew no bounds. Even his conspiracy he cloaked in the guise of piety. The Bible warns *"The sacrifice of the wicked is \_\_\_\_\_: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?"* (Prov. 21:27)
9. Can you think of another would-be king who made a pretense of piety to secure his throne? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): justice • 1. princely • 2. a) pompous; b) favor; c) crisis; d) good looks • 3. a) vow; b) devotion • 4. coronation • 5. grandfather • 6. Because he did not want harm to come to Absalom or his beloved city, and perhaps also because he knew that this was part of the chastisement that God had promised on account of his sin with Bathsheba. • 7. chariots • 8. abomination • 9. Herod did so with the wise men to destroy the Christ-child. (Matt. 2:8), but Jesus is the King of kings and cannot be deposed.

**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.