

Name: _____

Date: _____

ABSALOM: A HEART OF HATRED AND CONCEIT

“Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.” (Proverbs 18:12)

Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will

Absalom allowed his hatred and conceit to control his actions. Absalom’s pride and ignorance of God’s ways led to his death. God is the true ruler, and nothing can thwart God from carrying out His will.

*Knowledge of God’s
Divine Nature*

God is sovereign. God is all-powerful.

Good Works

Train ourselves to consider God in our daily lives. Exchange worldly desires with godly by resolving conflicts with each other and actively seeking God.

A. Absalom’s Hatred: His Sin, Exile, and Return

From a worldly perspective, Absalom had many qualities that would be useful as a ruler. However, he made the choice to use his talents for his own gain. How did his actions affect the lives of those around him?

1. *Repaid evil with evil:* Although Amnon did a terrible deed, Absalom also sinned by repaying evil with evil. He allowed his hatred to dictate his actions, and he executed his own form of justice instead of leaving vengeance to God.
2. *Selfishly burned Joab’s fields:* Rather than wait for Joab, Absalom forced his hand with an act of willful destruction. However, he made no apology for his actions, making it clear that he did not think he had done anything wrong in either killing Amnon or burning Joab’s fields.

B. Absalom’s Rebellion: Treason Against David

1. *Flaunted his wealth and position*
2. *Raised his reputation by sowing doubt in David’s*
3. *Used God as an excuse for his own ends*
4. *Permitted Hushai to remain as advisor*
5. *Slept with his father’s concubines*
6. *Followed Hushai’s advice despite his lack of experience*

C. Absalom’s Conceit: His Death

While David conceded to good advice when he heard it, Absalom decided that it would be a good idea to lead a large army into a fight, despite having very little experience in battle. In the end, it was his hair – an outward reflection of his inward pride – that led to his death.

God’s Sovereignty

Absalom had a clever plan and was patient enough to execute it in his rebellion. But his desire to overthrow his father’s rule meant nothing in the face of God’s control over all history and life on this earth.

Life Application: Exchanging Worldly for Godly Desires

1. *Resolve Conflicts with One Another*
2. *Resolve Conflicts with God*

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Lesson 10 Homework Assignment

Absalom: A Heart of Hatred and Conceit

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Proverbs 18:12):

1. In what way did Absalom's haughty heart lead to his destruction?
2. What was the reason Absalom burned Joab's fields? What does this reveal about his character?
3. What three actions did Absalom take in his revolt against the throne?
4. Although he was clever and patient with his rebellion, why did Absalom fail?
5. What is the most basic line of defense against following our personal desires? How can we do this?
6. Have you ever gotten into a serious conflict with someone? How did you resolve it? Would you approach the situation differently today?