

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

**For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, ...  
Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.** Isaiah 9:6-7

*Who can reign on the throne of David? Whose reign of peace was to never end?*

**Who can and would establish His Kingdom with justice and with righteousness?**

*It wasn't Amnon, the first born, as we heard last week, whose love not only failed, but was self-serving.*

He used his status as the king's son, the heir apparent, for his own personal lust.

He defiled his half-sister Tamar and when he was through with her, we are told,

**he "hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her  
was greater than the love with which he had loved her."** 2 Samuel 13:15

No, this could not be the son of David to reign on David's throne forever.

And he wouldn't. Absalom, Tamar's full brother, and apparently the next in line, made sure of that.

*Who can reign on the throne of David?*

Could it be Absalom, whose name means, "Father of Peace"?

Would he usher in a reign of peace, with justice and righteousness?

Since the day that Tamar came to him with her clothes torn and ashes on her head,  
Absalom had known what Amnon had done... And so did King David.

This is what we are told: **When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.**

But that's it. King David did nothing to Amnon... he did nothing for Tamar.

David, here and for the next few chapters of Scripture detailing Absalom's rebellion,

is rather passive and in-active, while things are happening that require a king's activity.

And that would seem to be at least some of the fuel for the fire of rebellion lit under Absalom.

...

See, Absalom wanted justice.

For 2 years, King David had done nothing; but not Prince Absalom. He was calculating and plotting.

When he judged the time was right... when Amnon was unsuspecting & drunk at Absalom's party,  
and in the view of all the other sons of the king, Absalom ordered Amnon's murder.

– If David wasn't going to do anything about it, Absalom took it upon himself.

(Of course, there might also have been a little bit of thought given to the kingly succession,  
because in the absence of the brother born between them, Absalom was next in line).

But after the murder, Absalom fled the country to the King of Geshur, his grandpa on his mom's side.

And again... David did nothing. ... For 3 years Absalom stayed up there... and nothing.

So King David didn't seek justice for Amnon's murder, either.

In fact, we are told that **the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom,  
because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead.** 2 Samuel 13:39

Instead of justice, David desired to show grace, just as he had been shown by the Lord,  
when he, like Amnon, had defiled a woman,  
and again, when he, like Absalom, had given orders to murder a man.  
And what a hard place for this father and king to be in.  
The Lord had told him after his own sins came to light,  
that the Lord would **raise up evil against him out of his own house.**  
And what father wouldn't feel responsible for that?

After those 3 years, Joab convinced David to allow Absalom back into Jerusalem,  
but still Absalom wasn't allowed to come into David's presence.  
But this act of grace only fueled Absalom's hatred and kindled further his plans of rebellion.  
Absalom waited in Jerusalem for 2 years for David to act justly,  
even saying to Joab, his cousin and David's military general,  
**"Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still."  
Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king, and if there is guilt in me,  
let him put me to death.'"**

But again, David desired to show mercy and allowed Absalom into the court and kissed him,  
a sign that peace had (supposedly) been restored.

You can see that this fanned into flame Absalom's ire. He wanted JUSTICE, but only got mercy.  
And so for the next 4 years, Absalom paraded himself with a chariot and 50 men  
and stood out on the way to Jerusalem and intercepted those coming to the king for judgments.  
He **stole the hearts of the men of Israel**, by slandering his father's administration,  
saying there was no one to hear their case, but that he would have ruled in their favor.  
And when 4 years of patient waiting had ended, he had himself crowned at Hebron,  
surrounded himself with David's counselor, Ahithophel, and possibly Bathsheba's grandfather,  
and with the men of Israel, and they set out towards Jerusalem to fight against his father and king.

David fled Jerusalem, unwilling to put the city and the Ark of the Covenant at risk.  
He crossed the Jordan River into the wilderness, and Absalom followed.  
...So much for Absalom's sense of justice. Open rebellion against his own father. Against his king.  
and leading the men of Israel (those who wanted him to be their king) into his sin.

Was Absalom the son of David to reign on his father's throne forever?

Was this the reign of **peace, with justice** and **with righteousness**?

Now let us hear what happened to Absalom's treasonous reign from 2 Samuel 18, selected verses.

*As follows in Jesus' name:*

So the king [David] stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." ... And [Joab] took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained them. And they took Absalom and threw him into a great pit in the forest and raised over him a very great heap of stones.<sup>(ESV)</sup>

*This is Your Word, heavenly Father; sanctify us in the truth, Your Word is Truth. Amen.* (John 17:17)

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It was justice that Absalom desired....

And it was justice that Absalom got, but not by the word or at the hand of David.

Even after all that Absalom had done, still David could not bring himself to condemn Absalom.

**"Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom."** He said to his generals and his men.

...

It was a sad day in Israel's history. A coup, a rebellion, a civil war.

The king's son trying to steal the kingdom away from his own father.

But Absalom's side was losing.

20,000 Israelites died, more of them killed by the forest than by sword

(which tells you whose side God was fighting on).

And so it happened that as Absalom was fleeing, his mule ran under a thick-branched tree and his gorgeous, luxurious, thick head of hair got so entangled in the branches that the mule ran out from under him, leaving him helplessly **suspended between heaven and earth...** involuntarily **hanging** on the tree.

While David could not bring himself to carry out justice, Joab delivered the merciless punishment.

Joab pinned him in the tree with 3 javelins and gave the order to strike and kill him.

Absalom finally got justice, but he didn't like it.

...

Dear sons and daughters of God, our gracious and merciful and just King,

If Absalom was not the son of David to reign on his throne forever, then who is it to be?

Let us consider another Son of David, as well as the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

His heavenly Father has shown great grace and mercy to many.

Many adulterers and murderers and rebellious children and unjust parents and kings have repented of their sins, sought His forgiveness, and received it.

He did not condemn them to the eternal punishments of hell's fire.

And yet, this just King and Father had to have justice, His kingdom is established on it.

Those adulteries, murders, rebellions, and injustices could not go unpunished.

And so the Father sent His Son, His only-begotten Son, into the human race, through the line of David, to bear in His own human body all of our murders, adulteries, rebellions, and injustices...

all of your adulteries, murders, rebellions, and injustices...

all of the adulteries, murders, rebellions, and injustices that have ever been committed against you.

...

Jesus, too, wanted justice, but not at the expense of His Father's people or Kingdom.

He, too, was zealous, and had a fire lit under Him, but not a fire of rebellion and sedition.

Instead, He willingly allowed Himself to be **hung** on a tree, **suspended between heaven and earth**,

suspended between God and man, pinned there with 3 nails, His hair intertwined with thorns.

There He hung, not helplessly or involuntarily, but willingly as He gave up His life,

suffering all of the punishments of hell for you,

and making peace between you and your heavenly Father and King.

This is the Son of David who would reign on David's throne forever,

*whose hanging on the tree restored the Kingdom to His Father,*

having brought full and complete **peace** to His kingdom,

**establishing and upholding it with true justice (AND MERCY)**

and with His own **righteousness**.

Peace has been truly restored.

**Kiss the Son...** for **Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.**<sup>Ps. 2:12</sup>

*Soli Deo Gloria*