

## 16. Amnon, Tamar and Absalom

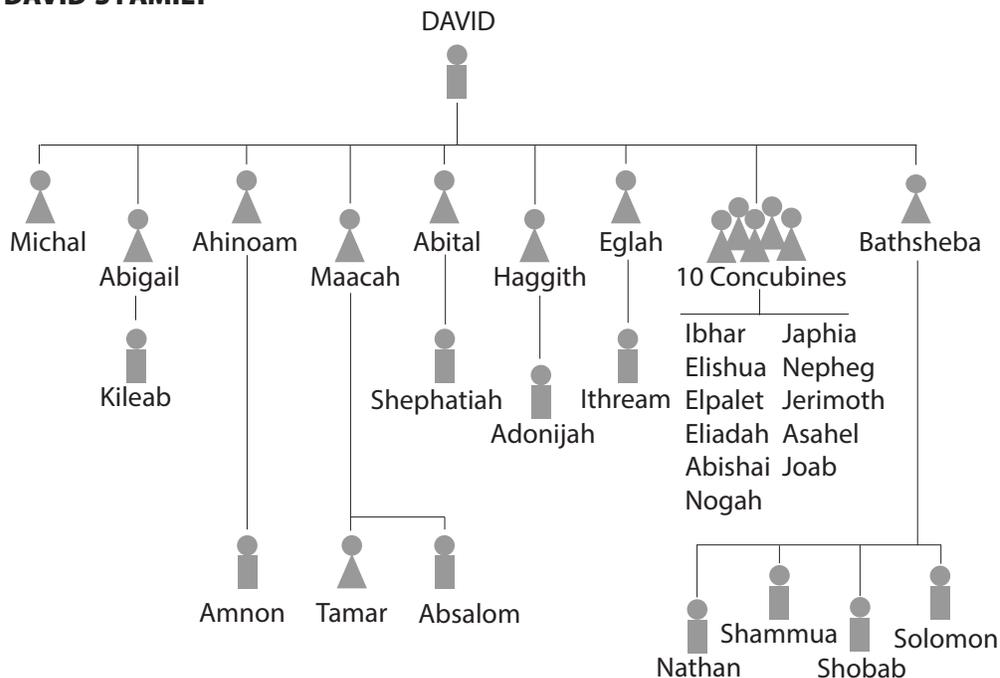
(2 Samuel 13–14)

### 6 David's Family Fractures Tragically (2 Sam 13:1–19:40)

#### 6.1 Amnon rapes Tamar (2 Sam 13:1–22)

- Amnon was David's first born in Hebron - See 2 Sam 3:2  
Amnon = "faithful" Tamar = "palm tree" Absalom = "father of peace"

#### DAVID'S FAMILY



- Amnon's lust and treachery is parallel to that of Shechem - the Canaanite who raped Dinah (see Genesis 34:2-3, 26).
- As we could imagine, a sexual relationship with such a close family member was strictly prohibited by Torah (see Lev 18:11; 20:17; Deut 27:22)
- 13:6, 8, 10 - the cakes/special cakes/special bread could either be heart shaped cakes or "hearty cakes"???
- 13:21 - David is furious... *But there is little David could do at this point due to the heinous nature of Amnon's crime.* The Torah required that a man who had sex with a virgin not pledged to another was obligated to marry her and pay a penalty (see Exod 22:16–17; Deut 22:28–29) Forcing Amnon to marry Tamar in fulfillment of Torah would also

violate the instructions related to marrying close kin. The payment penalty of 50 pieces of silver to the father - David - would also be meaningless in this context. *This whole episode makes David look weak* - like Eli dealing with his wickedly foolish sons in the early chapters of Samuel.

## 6.2 **Absalom murders Amnon in revenge** (2 Sam 13:23–33)

- Just as Amnon had done with Tamar, Absalom uses his father's influence to maneuver Amnon into his trap!!! David's family seems to have inherited his craftiness/shrewdness/cunning as Saul labeled it (see 1 Sam 23:22)

## 6.3 **Absalom flees to Geshur (2 Sam 13:34-39)**

- 13:37 - Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur - This is Absalom's **grandfather** on his mother Maacah's side (see 2 Sam 3:3; 1 Chr 3:2)

## 6.4 **Joab schemes for Absalom's return** (2 Sam 14:1-33)

- In this episode, Joab uses the same plan that Nathan had used earlier (see 12:1–14): 1) get an audience with the king, 2) present a fictitious situation, 3) let the king pronounce judgment, 4) urge the king to apply his wise judgment to himself!!!
- 14:5-11 - **Mercy** - the woman's story is similar to the narrative of Cain killing Abel in Genesis 4. Even though the Torah called for the death in the cases of both Cain and David committing murder, both were shown mercy. *The mercy of the LORD in some cases is greater than the requirement of Law!!!*

*The main point in this whole argument is that if Absalom - now David's assumed heir - remained in exile, this would put the Kingdom at risk.*

- 14:24 - "let him live apart..." David's choice to allow Absalom to return, but not be part of the Royal court signaled that he was being rejected in the line of succession. This caused the rift that would escalate into Absalom's rebellion.
- 14:25-26 - The abundance of Absalom's **hair** - which weighed about 5lbs - calls to mind the foolish and tragic stories of Esau and Samson. And, clearly the mention of his hair foreshadows his end.