

## ABSALOM AND ADONIJAH – ABC LESSON 30

### QUESTION

OUTLINE THE FEATURES OF AN ABSALOM OPERATING SYSTEM.

OUTLINE THE FEATURES OF AN ADONIJAH OPERATING SYSTEM.

### ANSWERS – ABSALOM AND ADONIJAH (ABC - LESSON 30)

#### THE ABSALOM OPERATING SYSTEM.

An Absalom operating system develops in an environment where there is no discipline. David was angry with Amnon for raping Tamar but did not discipline him – he failed to execute the law.

#### CAMOUFLAGES EMOTIONS AND INTENTIONS

##### CAMOUFLAGES HATRED

2 Sam 13:22

And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.(NKJ)

Absalom hated Amnon because he raped his sister Tamar.

2 Sam 13:23

And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.(NKJ)

2 Sam 13:28

Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."(NKJ)

This hatred which he successfully hid from Amnon, culminated in murder 2 years later.

#### 1.2 CAMOUFLAGES UNGODLY AMBITION

2 Sam 15:7-10

7 Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, "Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the LORD.

8 "For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, 'If the LORD

indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD."

9 And the king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

10 Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'"

(NKJ)

Absalom despised David for dealing poorly with Amnon. His hatred and ambition to be king was hidden from David. He waited for 40 years.

Absalom represents a devious spiritual son of the set man. He is disgruntled with the way the set man disciplines other spiritual sons. He hides his malice and ambition through good deeds(sheepshearing) and religion(vows in this case). He uses the sheep to get what he wants.

#### PROPELLED BY UNFORGIVENESS

2 Sam 13:22

And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.(NKJ)

2 Sam 13:28-29

28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."

29 So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.(NKJ)

Absalom harboured unforgiveness for 2 years. Time could not heal his condition.

#### KILLS THAT WHICH DAVID LOVES

Absalom killed Amnon.

He does not care about that which is dear to the set man.

2 Sam 13:36

So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.(NKJ)

#### STONY HEART

2 Sam 14:32

And Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be

there still." Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is iniquity in me, let him execute me."(NKJ)

Unrepentant – felt that he had done nothing wrong.

#### CONNECTED TO PEOPLE THAT DAVID CANNOT DISCIPLINE

2 Sam 13:37-38

37 But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

38 So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.(NKJ)

2 Sam 3:2-3

2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam the Jezreelite;

3 his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; (NKJ)

Absalom fled to Talmai, king of Geshur. Talmai was his grandfather. Absalom uses the sentimental ties of David to protect himself.

#### LOVED BY DAVID

2 Sam 13:39

And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.(NKJ)

2 Sam 18:5

5 Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom.

(NKJ)

2 Sam 18:32-33

32 And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" So the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!"

33 Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom-- my son, my son Absalom-- if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"

(NKJ)

This system though evil, operates in the one that the set man loves.

## BEAUTIFUL ON THE OUTSIDE

### 2 Sam 14:25-26

25 Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.  
26 And when he cut the hair of his head-- at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him-- when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's standard.(NKJ)

Absalom was beautiful on the outside, but full of maliciousness on the inside.  
People are attracted to his personality and looks.  
His own beauty(hair) eventually killed him when it trapped him in a tree.

### 2 Sam 18:9

Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on.(NKJ)

### Gal 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),(NKJ)

## MANIPULATIVE

### 2 Sam 14:29-32

29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come.  
30 So he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.  
31 Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"  
32 And Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.'" Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is iniquity in me, let him execute me."(NKJ)

He sets fires to get what he wants. A person operating with this system will deliberately cause problems in the church to achieve his aims.

## ATTENTION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

### 2 Sam 15:1-2

1 After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel."

(NKJ)

Positions himself in places of visibility. He engages in activity that gains the attention of others.

Pompous display of wealth(chariots and horses).

Rises early to demonstrate diligence.

Standing by the gate – so that he cannot be missed.

## OPPORTUNISTIC

m 15:2-3

Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel."

3 Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you."(NKJ)

He targets people with problems.

He gains points by undermining the set man's efficiency(vs3)

## AMBITIOUS

2 Sam 15:4

Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice."(NKJ)

He is driven by the desire to take the set man's position.

## FALSE LOVE TO STEAL THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE

2 Sam 15:5-6

5 And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him.

6 In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.(NKJ)

He kissed the people to get his way. Under the false pretext of concern he stole the hearts of the people.

#### PREYS ON THE INNOCENT AND IGNORANT

2 Sam 15:11

And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything.(NKJ)

The people who follow Absalom are innocent(naieve) and ignorant.

The history of David did not matter to this people.

#### OPERATES IN CONSPIRACY

2 Sam 15:12-13

12 Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city--from Giloh-- while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number.

13 Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."(NKJ)

He uses those who know the secret sins of the set man. Ahithophel was the father of Bathsheba – no doubt, he knew about David's sins.

#### ACTIVATES THE TRUE SONS OF THE HOUSE

2 Sam 15:19-22

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Return and remain with the king. For you are a foreigner and also an exile from your own place.

20 "In fact, you came only yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you."

21 And Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be."

22 So David said to Ittai, "Go, and cross over." Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the little ones who were with him crossed over.(NKJ)

Ittai, hitherto unknown, now comes to the forefront as a loyal follower of David. True "sons" are unveiled when crisis hits the house.

#### DRIVES THE CHURCH THROUGH A WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

2 Sam 15:23-25

23 And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.

24 There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city.

25 Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place.(NKJ)

2 Sam 17:29

honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who were with him to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."(NKJ)

An Absalom system drives the true church through a wilderness experience of pain and lack.

#### LASCIVIOUSNESS

2 Sam 16:22

So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.(NKJ)

This system is characterized by carnal indulgence.

#### DESTROYED BY HIS OWN BEAUTY

2 Sam 18:9

Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on.(NKJ)

Trapped by his own hair. His hair(glory) which everyone admired, eventually led to his death.

#### DOES NOT RAISE SONS

2 Sam 14:27

To Absalom were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a woman of beautiful appearance.(NKJ)

2 Sam 18:18

Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley. For he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom's Monument.(NKJ)

Absalom had 3 sons. He lived a loner – preoccupied with selfish ambition

#### AN UNEXPECTED ENEMY

2 Sam 3:2-3

2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam the Jezreelite; 3 his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; (NKJ)

Absalom was born in Hebron(communion) – a place of covenant, a safe city(city of refuge –see Joshua). He is an unexpected enemy.

#### THE ADONIJAH OPERATING SYSTEM.

#### AMBITIOUS

I King 1:5

Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.(NKJ)

Anyone operating in this system desires to usurp the set man's position.

#### ACTIVATED IN THE SET MAN'S ABSENCE/ILLNESS

I King 1:1

Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm.(NKJ)

Adonijah comes to the forefront when David is sick and defenceless. He is a spineless, opportunistic leader.

#### NEVER BEEN REBUKED

IKing 1:6

(And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)(NKJ)

He is the set man's creation. He has never been corrected. This does not mean that he was always right- rather he was used to pampering.

#### OPERATES IN CONSPIRACY

IKing 1:7

Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.(NKJ)

He joins himself to strong people to compensate for his own weakness.

#### 5. ILLEGITIMATE SACRIFICES

IKing 1:9

9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.(NKJ)

ZOHELETH – “The serpentine one”

He appears to have satanic connections.

He starts his ministry with idolatry.

#### 6. USES RELIGION FOR PROTECTION.

IKing 1:50

Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.(NKJ)

He sacrificed at the stone of Zoheleth. Now in his crisis he courts the help of the legitimate altar – the altar where David offered his sacrifices.

#### PRODIGAL SON

He could not wait for David's death. Like the prodigal son he wanted the inheritance(throne) before his father's death.

## INCORRIGIBLE

IIKing 2:19-25

19 Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so she sat at his right hand.

20 Then she said, "I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

21 So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."

22 And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also-- for he is my older brother-- for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah."

23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life!"

24 "Now therefore, as the LORD lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

25 So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.(NKJ)

When his plot to usurp the throne failed, he did not repent. He tries again through Abishag the Shunammite, the virgin given to David in his old age.