



## PART 3: ABSALOM—THE SON AND HAIR

And David mourned many days for his son Amnon. Absalom fled to his grandfather, Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. He stayed there in Geshur for three years. And King David, now reconciled to Amnon's death, longed to be reunited with his son Absalom.

~ 2 Samuel 13:37-39, NLT

Three years is a long time for a son to be in exile.

~ Walter Brueggemann, *Interpretation Commentary*

*Go in peace* is David's very last word to his son, who ironically goes away to prepare for war against his father.

~ Joyce G. Baldwin, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*

David's inability to relate to and influence his children certainly contributes to his problems.

~ Bill T Arnold, *The NIV Application Commentary*

Already the prophecy of Nathan that the sword would never depart from his house was working out in David's experience.

~ Joyce G. Baldwin, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*

Affairs of state are shown to be closely bound up with personal relationships; sinful liaisons have repercussions that rebound far beyond the private lives of the individuals concerned.

~ Joyce G. Baldwin, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*

David is presented as capable of trust and submissiveness. He relies on God's grace in the midst of enormous danger.

~ Walter Brueggemann, *Interpretation Commentary*

Power often corrupts, and those who grasp for it (Absalom) as well as those who retain it (David) often find that power is incapable, in and of itself, of providing either joy or fulfillment.

~ Bill T. Arnold, *The NIV Application Commentary*

David's story most clearly anticipates and most nearly approximates the Gospel story, the story of Jesus that extends into our stories, passion stories, stories of suffering, but suffering that neither diminishes nor destroys us, but makes us more human, prayerful, and loving.

~ Eugene H. Peterson, *Westminster Bible Companion*

**David sang this when he ran away from his son Absalom.**

LORD, I have many enemies!

Many people have turned against me.

Many are saying about me, "God won't rescue him." *Selah*

But, Lord, you are my shield, my wonderful God who gives me courage.

~ Psalm 3:1-3, NCV