

## **Absalom Returns**

2 Samuel 14

by Don Falkos

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A woman, obviously in mourning, bowed before King David and said, "My husband is dead. My two sons had a fight and one of them was killed. Now the rest of the family is demanding the execution of my remaining son."

The king said, "I'll see to it that no harm comes to him."

"My Lord the king. Why don't you do for the people of Israel what you have promised to do for me? Why have you refused to bring home your own banished son?"

"Did Joab put you up to this?"

"Yes, Joab sent me and told me what to say."

The king sent for Joab and told him, "Go and bring Absalom home."

Joab brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. But the king order, "Absalom must never come into my presence."

Absalom was a handsome man. He only cut his hair when it became too heavy. Usually, he would cut off about five pounds of hair at a time. He had three sons and one daughter. His daughter was Tamar, named after his sister, and she was very beautiful.

Absalom had been in Jerusalem for two years without seeing his father the king. He sent for Joab hoping he would intercede with David. But Joab refused to come. Joab's barley field was next to Absalom's. Absalom told his servants to set it on fire. Then Joab came.

Absalom asked, "Why did the king bring me back here? I might as well have stayed where I was. I want to see my father. If I'm guilty of anything, let him kill me."

Joab conveyed Absalom's message to the king. David summoned Absalom; he came; he bowed before the king; and the king kissed him.