

## **The Rape of Tamar**

2 Samuel 13

by Don Falkos

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David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. Their half-brother Amnon fell desperately in love with her but thought she was unattainable. Amnon's cousin said, "Don't look so dejected. I'll tell you what to do. Pretend you're sick, and tell the king you want Tamar to come and prepare some food for you and feed it to you." Amnon followed his advice.

While Tamar was in his room preparing some food for him, he grabbed her and demanded, "Come to bed with me."

She cried, "No! Stop! Don't disgrace me. Just talk to our father the king. He'll let you marry me."

Amnon wouldn't listen, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her. Then suddenly his love turned to hatred, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. "Get out of here!"

"No!" she cried, "Sending me away now would be even worse than what you've already done to me."

Amnon called for his servant and said, "Throw this woman out, and lock the door behind her!"

Tamar lived in the home of her brother Absalom, a desolate woman. Absalom hated Amnon for what he had done and plotted to kill him.

Two years later at sheep shearing time, Absalom hosted a feast for his brothers. During the feast, at his signal, Absalom's men murdered Amnon. The rest of his brothers ran for their lives. Absalom also fled.

David was told, "Absalom has killed all your sons!" David was grief stricken. Then he learned the truth.

Three years later, King David, having come to terms with Amnon's death, longed to be reunited with his son Absalom.