

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

QUESTION #5 – Questions About Absalom

QUESTION 1

II Samuel 14:27 “And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter...”

II Samuel 18:18 “...for he said {Absalom}, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance...”

How can this be? He had 3 sons?? Then later it says he had no sons.

+ ABSALOM – Background

- King David’s third son (II Samuel 3:1-3)
- Known for always acting on his own without the blessing and/or the knowledge of his father, David.
 - Avenging the rape of his sister, Tamar (II Samuel 13).
 - Stole the heart of the people (against his father) to be king instead of waiting for the death of David.
 - By nature, was somewhat of a maverick, a rebel and being rogue.

+ I Samuel 14:27 – three sons are born

- That Absalom had three sons born to him is not in question.
- The scripture declares it plainly.
- No other clear references to his sons are mentioned in scripture.
 - We do not know their names.
 - Nothing else in scripture is ever mentioned about them:
 - Childhood
 - Events in their lives
 - Record of their families, growing up, when they died, etc.

✚ II Samuel 18

- v. 18 – “Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which *is* in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.”
- To shed light on these two passages (14:27 and 18:18) – the whole of chapter 18 needs to be taken into consideration:
 - v. 1-4 – David divides his army into three groups.
 - v. 5 – David gives special instruction concerning Absalom – his “estranged” son.
 - v. 6-8 – the battle rages and there was a “great slaughter that day of twenty thousand” (v.7).
 - v. 9-17 –
 - Absalom gets hung in an oak tree
 - Joab’s men kill Absalom in while he is hanging in the tree
 - Absalom is buried in a pit
 - v. 18 – “Absalom’s place”
 - This is HISTORICAL
 - Absalom dies two verses previous

✚ CONCLUSION:

- Going off of v. 18 – all we know is that at some time in Absalom’s life:
 - he built a memorial in honor of himself
 - He wished for a son to carry on his name
- THEREFORE, there are two possible conclusions:
 - v. 18 is referencing a time before he had his children (14:27)
 - Because there are no other references to Absalom’s children, they may have all died young (perhaps a tragedy of a battle or way)
- BECAUSE we know there are no contradictions in the Bible, we know that both 14:27 did happen and what is recorded in 18:18 also happened
 - It is one of the many things in the Bible that we are just going to speculate and wonder about until we get to heaven.

QUESTION 2

II Samuel 15:4-7 – Concerning Absalom, King David’s son taking over the kingdom. Verse 6 says Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. Verse 7 says “And it came to pass after forty years...”

King David was king for 40 years total. Is this an error?

 **BACKGROUND:**

- Chapter 13 – Absalom flees to Geshur for three years after he killed his brother (technically half-brother) Amnon.
- Chapter 14 – Absalom returns to Jerusalem and doesn’t see his father (David) for two full years.
- Chapter 15 – Absalom steals the hearts of the people in develops his plot to become king in place of his father.

 **WHAT WE DO KNOW:**

- I Samuel 16:3 - David is anointed king while he was young (probably in between 10-15 years of age).
- II Samuel 5:4 – David began to reign when he was 30 years old.
- I Kings 2:11 – David reigned for 40 years.

 **WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW:**

- II Samuel 15:7 – we do not know what the reference point to “...after forty years...” is.
 - Some possibilities:
 - 40 years from the time David was originally anointed to be king.
 - Absalom could have been 40 years old.
 - From the time Israel asked for a king to rule over them.

 **CONCLUSION:**

- The question remains in v. 7 – *forty years after what?*
- God was measuring a time period of 40 years after something, but the truth is from the reading of this verse, He chose to not tell us what the historical reference is to 40 years previous.
- The Bible is an ETERNAL Book.
- We are not going to figure it all out in this life.
- The truth of the matter is that some things will remain a mystery until God opens our eternal understanding.
- What God did want us to know about Scripture, He made it searchable and findable.
- There are no questions about the gospel, salvation, eternal security, the deity of Christ, and so many more topics.
- But God did hide some things from us in His eternal wisdom and reasoning.