

# The Death of Absalom: Rebellion and Grief



Explore the tragic story of Absalom's rebellion, David's grief, and God's lessons on sin, justice, and restoration.

# Table of contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>Day 1:  The Roots of Rebellion</u>	4
<u>Day 2:  Absalom's Open Rebellion</u>	10
<u>Day 3:  A Father's Heartbreak</u>	16
<u>Day 4:  Justice and Mercy Collide</u>	22
<u>Day 5:  God's Sovereignty in Chaos</u>	28
<u>Day 6:  Words of Lament and Hope</u>	34
<u>Day 7:  Restoration and New Beginnings</u>	40



## Introduction

The story of Absalom is one of rebellion, heartbreak, and deep sorrow—a gripping narrative found in 2 Samuel that reveals the complex interplay of family, power, and God's justice. Absalom, King David's son, rebelled against his father in a violent and prideful attempt to seize the throne. His death, however, was devastating not only politically but personally for David, who grieved deeply for his lost son despite his betrayal.

*This study invites you to journey through these tumultuous events, understanding the spiritual and emotional layers beneath the surface. You'll see how rebellion against God's order leads to destruction, but also how grief reveals the tender heart of a father and king.*

As you reflect on this story over the next seven days, consider your own responses to sin, brokenness, and loss. Like David, we may face painful consequences of rebellion, whether our own or others'. Yet God's word shows us that even in sorrow, there are lessons about His justice, mercy, and the hope of restoration.

Prepare to dive deeply into Scripture and prayer, allowing God's truth to transform your heart as you wrestle with this tragic yet profoundly instructive biblical account.





## Day 1: The Roots of Rebellion



Day 1:  The Roots of Rebellion

## Your Verse

*2 Samuel 13:1-22 - The Spark of Absalom's Rebellion*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 37:8 - 'Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.'*
- *Proverbs 19:11 - 'A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.'*



Day 1:  The Roots of Rebellion

## Devotional: Understanding the Origins of Rebellion

**Absalom's rebellion did not erupt overnight.** The seeds of rebellion were sown through family betrayal, injustice, and unchecked anger. In 2 Samuel 13, we see the tragic events involving his sister Tamar and his half-brother Amnon, which stirred deep bitterness in Absalom's heart.

As human beings, unresolved pain and injustice can breed resentment and rebellion. *What might be small offenses or disappointments today could grow into full-blown heartbreak tomorrow if we don't handle them with wisdom and grace.*

God calls His people to respond to offenses differently — to seek peace, patience, and forgiveness rather than fury and retaliation. The Bible warns us that harboring anger can lead us down a destructive path, but God's wisdom invites healing and restoration instead.

Reflect on your own responses to hurt or offense. Are you nurturing bitterness or allowing God to bring peace to your heart?



Day 1:  The Roots of Rebellion

## Reflect and Apply

1. What unresolved hurts might be influencing my attitudes or actions today?

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2. How do I typically respond to offense or injustice, and does that align with God's wisdom?

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3. In what ways can I seek peace and healing in difficult relationships?

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Day 1:  The Roots of Rebellion

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you felt wronged. How did you respond, and what might you do differently now?

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2. Identify any areas of bitterness you might be holding onto. How can you surrender these to God?

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3. List Bible verses or promises that encourage you to pursue forgiveness and peace.

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Day 1:  The Roots of Rebellion

## Prayer for Today

**Father, thank You for revealing the dangers of unchecked anger and bitterness.** Help me to recognize the roots of any rebellion or hurt in my heart. Give me the strength and wisdom to respond with patience and forgiveness, trusting Your justice and timing. Heal my wounds and restore relationships where they are broken. Teach me to walk in Your peace every day. *Amen.* 🙏





## Day 2: ✂️ Absalom's Open Rebellion



Day 2: 🦋 Absalom's Open Rebellion

## Your Verse

*2 Samuel 15:1-12 - Absalom's Conspiracy Against David*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Jeremiah 17:9 - 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?'*
- *James 4:6 - 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.'*



## Devotional: The Danger of Pride and Deception

**Absalom's rebellion turned from hidden resentment to active conspiracy.** In 2 Samuel 15, he skillfully won the hearts of Israel's people, positioning himself as a rival king.

This passage reveals the seductive power of pride and deception, often cloaked in charm and good intentions but rooted in selfish ambition. Absalom exploited the people's desire for change to fuel his rebellion.

Our hearts, too, can be deceived and led into sinful desires when we elevate ourselves or seek power apart from God's will. The Bible reminds us that pride is dangerous and that humility protects us.

Consider: Are there ways pride or ambition have crept into your life? How can you guard your heart against deceit?



## Reflect and Apply

1. What prideful attitudes might I harbor that oppose God's will?

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2. How can I discern the difference between godly ambition and selfish rebellion?

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3. In what areas do I need to cultivate humility before God and others?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on a time when pride led you or someone else into difficulty. What lessons were learned?

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2. Identify moments in your life when you've been deceived by your own heart. How did God bring clarity?

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3. Write a prayer asking God to cultivate humility and honesty within you.

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Day 2: 🦋 Absalom's Open Rebellion

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, expose any pride or deception in my heart.** Help me to walk humbly and sincerely before You. Guard me from selfish ambitions that pull me away from Your purposes. Teach me to rely on Your wisdom instead of my own understanding, and to seek Your favor through humility and truth. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏🙏💡





## Day 3: A Father's Heartbreak





Day 3: ❤️ A Father's Heartbreak

## Your Verse

*2 Samuel 18:33 – David Mourns Absalom's Death*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 34:18 – 'The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.'*
- *Isaiah 53:4 – 'Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.'*



Day 3: ❤️ A Father's Heartbreak

## Devotional: Grieving a Broken Relationship with Love

**David's grief over Absalom's death reveals the profound pain of a father who loves a rebellious son.** Though Absalom had betrayed him, David's sorrow was genuine and deep.

There is no contradiction in loving someone and grieving their loss even when they have hurt us. David's lament shows the complexity of human relationships and the power of unconditional love.

In our own lives, we may experience similar sorrows — loved ones who rebel against us, make poor choices, or suffer consequences. God's Word assures us that He is near to the brokenhearted and understands our pain intimately.

Take comfort in knowing that God grieves with us and offers healing even in the midst of deep loss.



Day 3: ❤️ A Father's Heartbreak

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do I cope with grief caused by others' rebellion or choices?

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2. Can I hold love and sorrow together like David did?

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3. How does God's presence comfort me when I am brokenhearted?

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Day 3: ❤️ A Father's Heartbreak

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a relationship that causes you pain but also love. How can you seek God's healing there?

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2. Describe your feelings when someone you care about disappoints or hurts you.

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3. List ways God has comforted you during times of grief.

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Day 3: ❤️ A Father's Heartbreak

## Prayer for Today

Dear God, comfort my broken heart like You comforted David. Help me to grieve honestly and love faithfully, even through pain. Surround me with Your peace that surpasses understanding and heal wounds that feel too deep. Teach me to trust in Your sovereignty, even when loss is hard to bear. *Amen.*



## Day 4: Justice and Mercy Collide



Day 4: 🏰 Justice and Mercy Collide

## Your Verse

*2 Samuel 14:1-20 - Joab Appeals to David for Mercy*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Micah 6:8 - 'To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'*
- *Psalms 85:10 - 'Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.'*



Day 4: 🏰 Justice and Mercy Collide

## Devotional: Balancing Justice with Compassion

**The tension between justice and mercy comes vividly to life around Absalom's story.** Joab, David's commander, appeals for mercy on behalf of Absalom, highlighting the heart of God's balance between righteousness and compassion.


God desires us to walk justly but also to love mercy. Justice holds sin accountable; mercy offers forgiveness and restoration.

David wrestled with his role as judge, father, and King, seeking to administer justice without destroying the hope for reconciliation.

In your life, how do you balance standing firmly against wrong while extending grace and forgiveness? Reflect on God's perfect example as you seek wisdom for your own decisions.





Day 4:  Justice and Mercy Collide

## Reflect and Apply

1. Where do I struggle to balance justice and mercy?

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2. How can I reflect God's compassion without compromising truth?

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3. What steps can I take to extend mercy in difficult situations?

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Day 4:  Justice and Mercy Collide

## Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a situation where mercy changed the outcome positively.

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2. Write about a time when justice was necessary, even if it was painful.

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3. List ways you can practice mercy in your community.

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Day 4: 🏛️ Justice and Mercy Collide

## Prayer for Today

**God of justice and mercy, guide my heart to reflect Your character.** Help me walk humbly and act justly while loving others with compassion. Give me wisdom to discern the right path and courage to extend grace even when it's hard. May Your love shine through my actions. *Amen.* ⚖️💖🙏





## Day 5: God's Sovereignty in Chaos



Day 5:  God's Sovereignty in Chaos

## Your Verse

*2 Samuel 18:5-17 - The Battle and Death of Absalom*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 8:28 - 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.'*
- *Psalms 46:1 - 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.'*



Day 5:  God's Sovereignty in Chaos

## Devotional: Trusting God's Rule in Life's Storms

**The chaotic and tragic death of Absalom reminds us that God's sovereignty reigns even in human turmoil.** Though rebellion caused destruction, God's sovereign plan and goodness are never thwarted.

David's kingdom and family were shaken, but God's presence remained a refuge and strength. Paul later reminds believers that God works all things together for good — even the hardest trials.

When life feels out of control, like a battlefield, we can trust in God's overarching care and wise governance.

How can you rest in God's sovereignty amid your personal or communal struggles?



## Reflect and Apply

1. Where have I seen God's sovereignty in difficult circumstances?

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2. How can I begin to trust God more fully when chaos surrounds me?

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3. What does it mean for God to be your refuge and strength today?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time God worked good through a painful situation.

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2. Describe your feelings when facing uncertainty or loss.

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3. List scriptures that encourage you to trust God's control.

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Day 5: 🛡️ God's Sovereignty in Chaos

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, Sovereign over all, help me to trust Your plan.** When life seems chaotic or painful, remind me that You are my refuge and strength. Help me surrender control and rest in Your goodness, knowing You work all things for those who love You. *Thank You for Your steadfast presence.* Amen. 🛡️ 🙏 💙



## Day 6: 💬 Words of Lament and Hope



Day 6: 💬 Words of Lament and Hope

## Your Verse

*Psalm 3:1-8 – David's Prayer in Distress*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Lamentations 3:22-23 – 'Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.'*
- *Romans 12:12 – 'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.'*



Day 6: 💬 Words of Lament and Hope

## Devotional: Honest Prayer in Pain and Hope

**David's psalms of lament provide an example for how to bring sorrow and hope honestly before God.** In Psalm 3, David cries out in fear and pain yet rests confidently in God's protection and deliverance.

Lament is a gift that lets us pour out our pain to God without pretending all is well, opening the door for healing and renewed hope.

*Our grief, anger, and confusion are not barriers to faith but bridges toward a deeper relationship with God.*

Use David's example today to voice your own struggles and cling to God's promises of mercy and restoration for tomorrow.



## Reflect and Apply

1. Do I allow myself to express honest emotions to God, including lament?

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2. How does hope shape my prayers during difficult times?

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3. What promises from Scripture encourage me to persevere?

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Day 6: 💬 Words of Lament and Hope

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write a lament prayer expressing your current struggles honestly.

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2. List promises from God's Word that give you hope.

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3. Describe how prayer has helped you in past painful seasons.

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Day 6: 💬 Words of Lament and Hope

## Prayer for Today

**Father, hear my honest prayers.** In moments of pain and confusion, I bring my lament to You, trusting You will hear and heal. Help me to hold onto hope and faith, knowing Your love never fails. Teach me to remain joyful in hope, patient in suffering, and faithful in prayer. *Thank You for being my refuge.*

Amen. 💬 🙏 ❤️





## Day 7: Restoration and New Beginnings





## Your Verse

*2 Samuel 19:1-8 – David's Return and Healing*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 43:18-19 – 'Forget the former things; see, I am doing a new thing!'*
- *2 Corinthians 5:17 – 'If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.'*



Day 7: 🌱 Restoration and New Beginnings

## Devotional: Embracing God's Restoration and Hope

**After tragedy and turmoil, David's return to Jerusalem marks a time of restoration and hope.** Though scars remain, God offers new beginnings and healing in broken places.

This passage encourages believers to release the past and embrace the new things God is doing. Whether through forgiveness, renewed relationships, or spiritual growth, restoration is possible.

In Christ, we become new creations, leaving behind rebellion and grief to walk in abundant life.

Reflect on how God might be inviting you to step into His restoration and fresh starts today.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What past hurts or failures do I need to release to God?

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2. How am I embracing the new things God wants to do in my life?

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3. In what ways can I pursue restoration in relationships or spiritual growth?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time God brought restoration after hardship.

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2. List areas where you desire new beginnings with God's help.

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3. Pray for strength to release the old and embrace His plans.

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Day 7: 🌱 Restoration and New Beginnings

## Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for Your gift of restoration and new life. Help me to let go of past pain and failures, embracing the new things You are doing in my heart and life. Renew my spirit and relationships with Your grace, and lead me forward in hope and faith. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🌱 ✨ 🙏





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