

**Ahithophel, Absalom's Inside Agent; Conspiracy, Revolution, & Long-Simmering Olla Podridas, 2 Samuel 13:29**

**2 Samuel 13:29** – Absalom’s bodyguards did to Amnon what Absalom had commanded. Then all the king’s sons were moved with panic so that each one mounted his mule and escaped.

The many brothers in attendance were so afraid of what Absalom had done they collectively mounted up and headed back to Jerusalem. Absalom’s plan was to seek political asylum in his grandfather’s kingdom of Geshur, just across the Jordan River from his ranch in Baal-hazor.

**2 Samuel 13:38** – So, Absalom fled and went to Geshur and was there for three years.

Absalom has now executed his plan all the way down to his escape to Geshur. He began functioning under the first husband when his lust pattern flared following David’s injustice towards Tamar.

David was Absalom’s role model, however, under the pressure of injustice, respect and admiration were converted into role model arrogance because of unrealistic expectations. This led Absalom to plot revenge against Amnon in order to destroy his father as king. Iconoclastic arrogance fed Absalom's lust to right perceived wrongs done to his sister. He was self-absorbed to the point that he believed he was better qualified to execute justice than was God.

Under self-justification, Absalom decided that Amnon and David’s failures allowed him the prerogative of destroying them both. He deluded himself into believing that vengeance was his instead of the Lord's. He camouflaged his real intentions behind a facade of courtesy and good manners.

Iconoclastic arrogance utilized revenge motivation, and crusader arrogance to lead Absalom down the path of the loser believer all the way to the commission of murder. Once iconoclastic arrogance had successfully struck out at David by proxy it fed Absalom’s lust for greater conquest. He soon derived in his own mind that he had the power to actually destroy David himself.

A SWAT Team of Crusader Arrogance, Approbation Lust, Political Activism, and Conspiracy Arrogance motivated Absalom to enter into a palace revolution. He then brought into the mix one of David's closest advisors, Ahithophel the Gilonite who was also enmeshed in Iconoclastic Arrogance but had not yet found a way to express it.

Why do you suppose that Ahithophel was also in Iconoclastic Arrogance towards David? In 2 Samuel 23 we have the roll call of David’s Mighty Men and included in a group called “*The Thirty*” there is this entry at:

**2 Samuel 23:34b** - ... Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite.

With this in mind we compare the information found in:

**2 Samuel 11:2** - Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.

**2 Samuel 11:3** - David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is this not Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam ...”

Very instructive! Bath-sheba was Ahithophel’s granddaughter. Ahithophel was one of David’s most trusted counselors according to:

**2 Samuel 16:23** - The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by both David and Absalom.

Ahithophel went into Iconoclastic Arrogance when David raped his granddaughter, Bath-sheba. Absalom went into Iconoclastic Arrogance when David failed to enforce justice following Amnon's rape of Tamar. Both men have been slowly simmering in an Olla Podrida [oi-ya pa-dre-dah] seasoned by the three arrogant skills.

An olla podrida is a rich highly seasoned stew of meat and vegetables, usually including sausage and chick-peas, but is oftentimes embellished with leftovers. This stew is cooked at a slow simmer. The term has in time come to describe any miscellaneous mixture.

Therefore, where food is concerned, it's a hash. Where miscellaneous combinations are concerned, it's a hodgepodge. Where Absalom and Ahithophel are concerned, it's mix includes revenge motivation, political activism, conspiracy arrogance, civil disobedience, and, ultimately, a full-blown revolution. 2 Samuel 15, 2 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 17.

Ahithophel's olla podrida simmered for 13 years, Absalom's for 11. Let's add it all up:

Subsequent to the rape of Bath-sheba in 2 Samuel 11:4, we learn that Bath-sheba gave birth to the Adulterine, who died.

**2 Samuel 11:27** - ... David brought Bath-sheba to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son.

2 Samuel 12:19 tells us that the child died at the age of one week. This pregnancy takes up a nine-month period. Following the death of the Adulterine, David then sires a second child by Bath-sheba.

**2 Samuel 12:24** - Then David comforted his wife Bath-sheba and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon.

This is followed in 2 Samuel 12:26–2 Samuel 12:31 by a war between Israel and the Ammonites. Thus, we may conclude that by the time we reach the rape of Tamar in 2 Samuel 13, about two years have transpired since the rape of Bath-sheba and Ahithophel's entry into Iconoclastic Arrogance.

David's miscarriage of justice occurs here and causes Absalom to begin simmering in his olla podrida of anger, hatred, and arrogance. His first phase lasted for two years before he murdered Amnon.

**2 Samuel 13:22** - Absalom did not speak to Amnon either good or bad; for Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar.

**2 Samuel 13:23** - Now it came to pass after two full years that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor ... and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

Following the assassination of Amnon, Absalom takes up political asylum in his grandfather's kingdom of Geshur.

**2 Samuel 13:38** - Absalom fled and went to Geshur and was there three years.

Following a partial reconciliation with David, Absalom returns to Israel but they remained estranged for two more years.

**2 Samuel 14:28** - Now Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem and did not see the king's face.

Absalom is finally received at court by David in 2 Samuel 14:33 after which Absalom begins to foment his revolution. It took him four more years before he felt he had gained a big enough following to execute his *coup d'état*. He decided to make his hometown of Hebron his base of operations.

**2 Samuel 15:7** - Now it came about at the end of four years [“40 years” is a scribal error. David only reigned 40 years. The number which is obviously intended is 4 years.] that Absalom said to the king, “Please let me go to Hebron and pay my vow which I have vowed to the Lord.”

Now the reason we took the time to document this is to demonstrate how long the three arrogant skills will allow a good old-fashioned *olla podrida* of cosmic hatred to simmer in the souls of men—13 for Ahithophel and 11 for Absalom.

Nothing good came from it all. Nothing good ever comes from either assassinations or revolutions.

**1 Samuel 15:23** - Rebellion is as the sin of divination and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.

When it was all said and done, self-absorption, self-denial, and self-justification imploded into the sin unto death for both men.