



NEWS from Bringing to Light

The Entrance of Thy Words Giveth Light.

Issue 7: July, 2015

A Mandate From God! (Part II-Continued)

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"Absalom" is a name from the Bible that reminds us of great evil. He *"stole the hearts of the men of Israel"* away from King David (2 Sam. 15:6). He had sexual relations with David's ten concubines on a roof for all to see (v.16). He had his brother Amnon killed (2 Sam. 13:28). He purposed to kill his own father, David, and become king. Why would Absalom be so overcome with darkness, when he was a son of David. Scripture said that he was beautiful (2 Sam. 14:25). He had favor with the people (2 Sam. 15). What was wrong?

I believe that Absalom's heart became hardened over the events surrounding the way his father, David, handled another son, Amnon, in raping Absalom's half-sister, Tamar. Absalom's and Tamar's mother was David's concubine, Maacah. Amnon was their oldest half-brother whose mother was Ahinoam. Amnon lusted for Tamar. He pretended to be sick and requested of David that she come to him and prepare food. David sent Tamar to him. She brought him food, and he grabbed her requesting that she lie with him" (2 Sam. 13:11). She pleaded with him to not commit this evil. She said, *"And I, how could I rid myself of my shame..."* (v. 13 Amp.) He disregarded her plea and raped her. The Bible says that *"Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her."* Amnon then demanded her to *"Arise, be gone."* He had his servants to remove her from his room and had the door bolted behind her (v. 15-17).

Tamar had come into Amnon's room wearing bright colors as the daughters of kings that were virgins wore. ...But now, upon leaving Amnon's room, she tore her beautiful garments and placed ashes upon her head. She placed her hand upon her head and kept on crying (v. 18&19). Scripture tells us that Tamar remained desolate (ruined) in her brother, Absalom's house (v. 20). Absalom saw the devastation in his sister. Her name was Tamar which means "to be erect like a palm tree", but she was now bent over with grief and shame.

David heard about his oldest son, Amnon's sin against Tamar. David was angry but he did nothing to rectify the evil. I believe that Absalom's hurt over Tamar grew into bitterness, anger, and hatred towards Amnon and his father, David. After two years, he made a plan for Amnon to be killed. His servants killed him, and Absalom fled. David knew why Absalom had his brother killed. He called for Absalom to come back to Jerusalem; yet, he refused to see him for two years. Absalom's wife had three sons and a daughter. He named his daughter, Tamar, after his sister.

Absalom is reunited to his father, David. He kisses Absalom. David's affection came too late. He needed it early in life. Absalom rises up with a desire now to once again vindicate his sister. He wins the hearts of the people in Jerusalem after four years of giving them counsel and care. Absalom had a mission. He gained the favor of the people with a desire to rule, and drive out his father. Absalom and his followers rise up against David. David flees. Absalom commits adultery with David's concubines.

He continues in his attempts to destroy his father, David; but while riding upon his mule, his head caught in the branches of an oak tree and was left hanging in the tree, still yet alive. Joab came along and killed him. Once again, David weeps over the death of a son.

Was David there to train up his son, Absalom, in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6)? I don't think so, and many people suffered because of it.

Rays of Light



Robert and I had the privilege to go to a Stephen's Ministry Leadership Training Conference to be certified as leaders in this capacity. We met people from across the United States and from Canada. There were representations of a variety of denominations. There were approximately 250 of us that gathered together to worship and to learn. We all stood to our feet to worship, and I heard all of the voices rise up in a sound unified in power to minister love and adoration to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hate to admit it, but I was surprised to sense the Presence of Jesus flood that room. You may wonder why. I guess I thought because of the differences of beliefs, thinking that we would not be visited with the Presence of the Great I Am. Well, He did in spite of what I thought. I quickly remembered the Scriptures in Revelation 7:9&10, *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."* Oh, what a day that will be. I felt myself begin to weep in the worship service uncontrollably; to the point, I felt ashamed of the tears that were flowing. I was reminded of the power that is available to not many churches but to the Church, if we would only come together with the purpose of glorifying Jesus. We need to let the petty differences in our denominations not hinder us from uniting in worship and intercession for our nation and a broken world. I had to ask the Lord to forgive me for not expecting Him to meet with us in that assembly of believers. "Father, in Jesus' name, may your Church be unified, joining ranks against the principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places."

Prayer Requests



Micah is getting stronger and stronger. "Thank you, Jesus." Please continue to pray for healing and strength (wholeness in Jesus' sweet Name)



HAPPY 4th of JULY!

*"Heavenly Father,
In Jesus' Name, Please Pour Out Your
Holy Spirit Upon Our Nation and
Shield Us With Your Hand of Mercy & Grace!"*