

THE LIFE OF DAVID

AFTER
GOD'S
HEART

“Sins of the Father”
2 Samuel 14-15

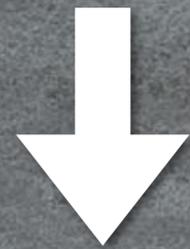


Steven Spielberg



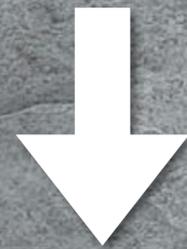
DAVID'S CHILDREN

Ahinoam



Amnon

Abigail



~~Chileab~~

Maacah



Absalom

Tamar

...



Numbers 14:18

The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.



Deuteronomy 24:16

Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.



Leviticus 26:39

Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their ancestors' sins they will waste away.



Jeremiah 16:10-12

“When you tell these people all this and they ask you, ‘Why has the LORD decreed such a great disaster against us? What wrong have we done? What sin have we committed against the LORD our God?’ then say to them, ‘It is because your ancestors forsook me,’



Jeremiah 16:10-12

declares the LORD, 'and followed other gods and served and worshiped them. They forsook me and did not keep my law. But you have behaved more wickedly than your ancestors. See how all of you are following the stubbornness of your evil hearts instead of obeying me.

She never had a childhood and carried the emotional scars of her abuse into our family. Giving and receiving love, enjoying life, fun, laughter, playfulness, joy were unknown to her. She struggled with depression and feelings of profound loneliness her entire life.



Sin gives rise
to more sin.





Eugene Peterson

Suffering has a history, and it helps to know it. The difficulties that come into our lives aren't arbitrary intrusions; they're elements in a complex web of interconnecting sins and mercies. This doesn't mean that we can diagram lines of causation or responsibility in suffering. What we need to know is that suffering is neither an impersonal fate nor a cut-and-dried moral punishment. We're implicated in a world of sin, sometimes ours and sometimes others', and therefore in a world of suffering.



2 Samuel 14:1-3

Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom. So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead. Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.



2 Samuel 14:5-7

The king asked her, "What is troubling you?" She said, "I am a widow; my husband is dead. I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them. One struck the other and killed him. Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, 'Hand over the one who



2 Samuel 14:5-7

struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well.' They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth."



2 Samuel 14:13

The woman said, "Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son?"



2 Samuel 14:18-19

Then the king said to the woman,
“Don’t keep from me the answer to
what I am going to ask you.” “Let my
lord the king speak,” the woman said.
The king asked, “Isn’t the hand of
Joab with you in all this?”



2 Samuel 14:21-22

The king said to Joab, "Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom."

Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honor, and he blessed the king. Joab said, "Today your servant knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant's request."



2 Samuel 14:23-24

Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face."

So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king.



2 Samuel 14:31-32

Then Joab did go to Absalom's house, and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!" '

Now then, I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death."



2 Samuel 14:27

Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. **His daughter's name was Tamar**, and she became a beautiful woman.



Eugene Peterson

Absalom stewed in banishment. He was home, but he wasn't home. This was no life, just to be permitted to exist. He wanted acceptance, a personal word of forgiveness. He wanted his father's love. He needed more than food and drink for survival; he required grace and mercy in order to live. At first he was simply glad to be back, but gradually he came to realize that he needed far more than a piece of royal legislation in his favor; he needed a father.



2 Samuel 14:33

So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.



David Wolpe

Notice that Absalom is not kissed by his father or by David; he is kissed by “the king.” In a single verse, David is referred to as “the king” three times. ... a father’s bearing in a moment of presumed reconciliation has reverberations in the psyche of any child. ... Given what we will see later in David’s mourning for Absalom, this scene suggests



David Wolpe

not a lack of love but something worse—a refusal to love. There is an almost monstrous quality in his self-restraint with his own child. It is not anger, which implies intimacy, but the cold, cloaked dissociation of a man whose heart is unavailable to himself, and therefore to his child.



2 Samuel 15:1-6

In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?"



2 Samuel 15:1-6

He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel."

Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you."

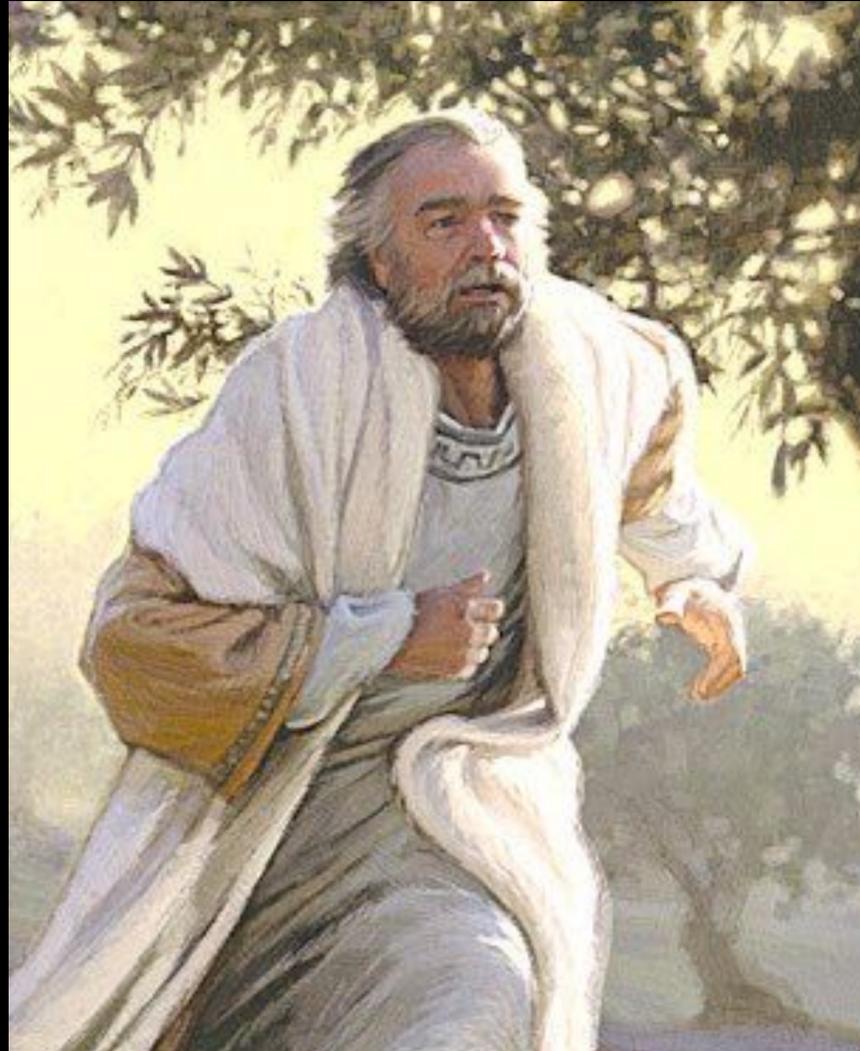
And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone



2 Samuel 15:1-6

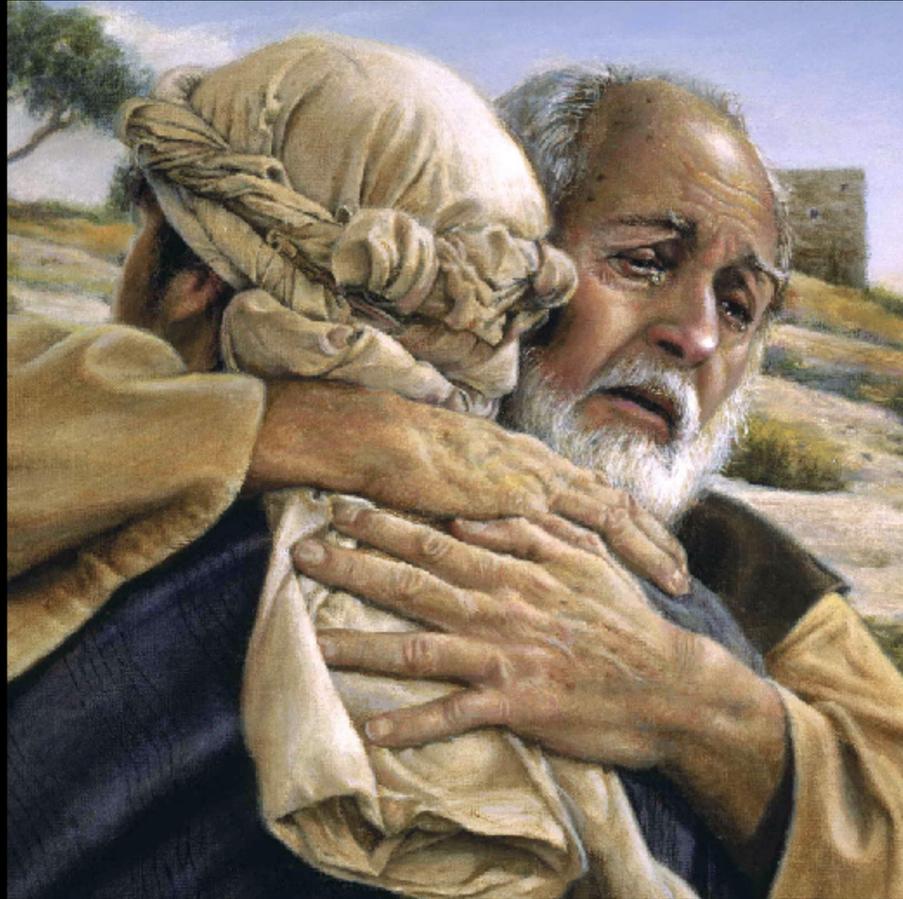
who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice.”

Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.



Luke 15:20-24

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



Luke 15:20-24

The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.



Luke 15:20-24

Bring the fattened calf and kill it.
Let's have a feast and celebrate.
For this son of mine was dead and
is alive again; he was lost and is
found.' So they began to
celebrate.

