July 15 – 2 Samuel 13

Grieved

Tamar's Worst Day

Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

King David, by Nicolas Cordier
Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore
est. A.D. 432, Rome, Italy

2 Samuel

1.	June 3	Respected	1-2	David Mourns Saul, then Made King
2.	June 10	Crowned	3-4	Civil War – Abner Killed by Joab
3.	June 17	Celebrated	5-6	King David Moves Ark to Jerusalem
4.	June 24	Established	7	God's Covenant to Build House of David
5.	July 1	Valued	9	David Befriends Mephibosheth
6.	July 8	Accountable	11-12	David & Bathsheba, Repents to Nathan
✡ 7.	July 15	Grieved	13	Tamar Raped … Absalom Kills Amnon
8.	July 22	Deposed	15	Absalom Rebels against David
9.	July 29	Restored	19	David Restored to Throne
10.	Aug. 5	Averted	20	Sheba Revolts against David
11.	Aug. 12	Resolved	21	Gibeonite Revenge on House of Saul
12.	Aug. 19	Thankful	22	David's Song of Deliverance (Psalm 18)
13.	Aug. 26	Disciplined	24	David's Census Sin

2 Samuel Outline

1-7	David Secures the Kingdom over Southern and Northern Tribes	1-7
1	David Mourns Death of Saul & Jonathan	
2-4	David Made King over Judah in Hebron	
5	David Made King over All of Israel … Conquers Jerusalem	
6	Ark brought to Jerusalem	
7	Davidic Covenant … David wants to Build Temple	
8-10	David Extends the Kingdom	8-10
8	War against Philistia, Moab, Syria, Ammon, Amalek	
9	David's Kindness to Saul's son Mephibosheth	
10	War against Ammon in Syria	
11-12	David with Bathsheba, Adultery, Murder, Repents, Solomon's Birth	11-12
13-19	Absalom's Revolt against David	13-19
13-14	Amnon Rapes Tamar … Absalom Kills Amnon, Fleers, Returns	
15-17	Absalom Revolts against David … David Flees	
18-19	David Defeats Absalom … Joab Kills Absalom	
19-24	David Re-secures the Kingdom	19-24
20	Sheba's Revolt & Death	
21	Saul's Sons Killed … David Defeats Philistines	
22	David's Psalm of Victory	
23	David's Last Song … David's Mighty Men	
24	David Takes Census of Israel	

1 Kings 1-2 … David Bedridden … Appoints Solomon King … David Dies

You're HERE

2 Samuel 5-20
more exploits in
1 Chronicles 11-28

Theme

God establishes the family for loving relationships; sin destroys relationships.

2 Samuel 13

13:1-14	Rape –	Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar
13:15-20	Shame –	Tamar's Shame … Absalom Consoles "*shhhh*"
13:21-22	Rage –	David Furious … Nothing … Absalom Silent Rage
13:23-29	Plot –	Two Years Later Absalom Plots & Kills Amnon
13:30-33	Weeping –	David Hears "ALL Sons Killed" … then only Amnon
13:34-38	Flight –	Absalom Flees to Geshur … Three Years
13:39	Longing –	David Consoled on Amnon … Longs for Absalom

What a emotional roller coaster

Key Verses – 2 Samuel 13:21-22

21 When King David heard all this, he was furious.

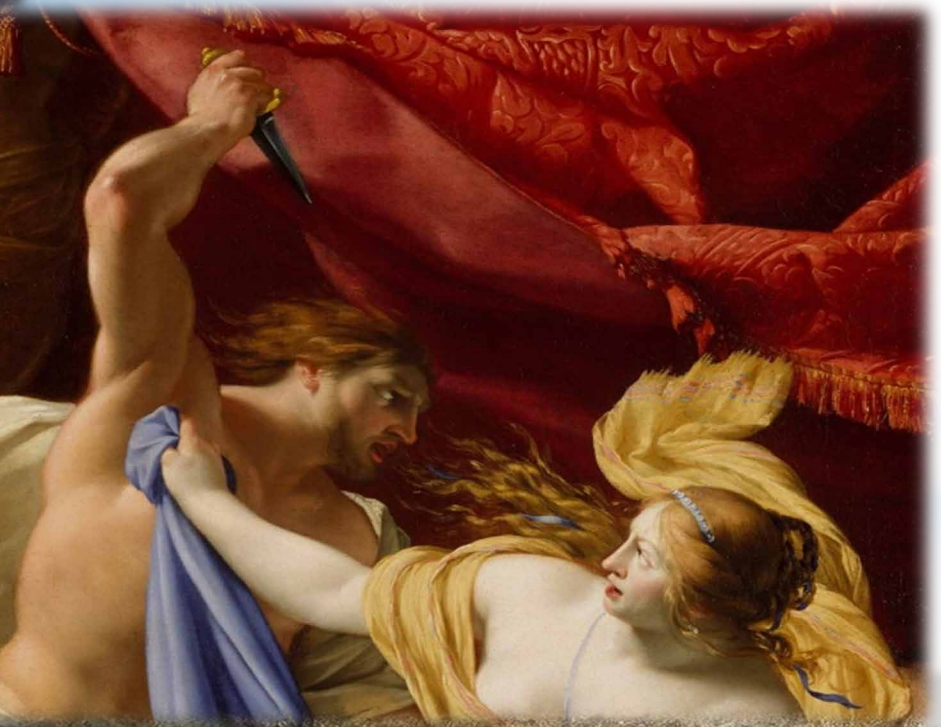
22 And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.

Spoiler Alert
But David did NOTHING

Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

Alternative Title

Rape of Tamar



Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

- ✓ No Funny Teaser
- ✓ No Insightful Alliteration
- ✓ No Wise Comparison
- ✓ Just an Evil Act

Alternative Title #2

Compounding Interest of Neglecting Justice

Danger of Allowing Evil to Go Unchecked

Danger of Delaying Justice

In 2 Samuel 11-12 … we touched the Tale of Two Sieges

Joab laid siege to Rammah …

David laid siege to Bathsheba …

12-plus months of siege at the least

Sometime after Solomon was born

Joab calls David to Rammah …

1 Chronicles 20 outlines MORE

- ✓ v. 1, Joab "left Rammah in ruins"
- ✓ v. 2, took crown of king, put it on David
  weight: 1 talent of gold w jewels 57 lbs

Gustave Doré (1832–1883) of David's taking Rabbah in 2 Sam. 12 in the deluxe 1843 French trans. of Latin Vulgate, *La Grande Bible de Tours*, one of 241 wood engravings

Then in 1 Chronicles 20:4 ff …

In the course of time … war w Philistines

Descendants of the Rephaites … giants

Elhahan son of Jair killed Lahmi
Brother to Goliath

Another at Gath took place …

HUGE Man w 6 fingers, 6 toes

v. 7, When he taunted Israel, Jonathan,
son of Shimea David's brother
… killed him

v. 8, descendants of Rapha
fall to David's men

1 Chronicles 21 …
Satan gets David to Census

1,100,000 fighting men

God gives David 3 choices

1. 3 yrs Famine …
2. 3 months before enemies
3. 3 days of plague …

70,000 die in plague –
David repents

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

[1] In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in LOVE with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

That is interesting … and says a

LOT between the lines

By this time, David has MANY sons

And from all we can tell … Amnon is

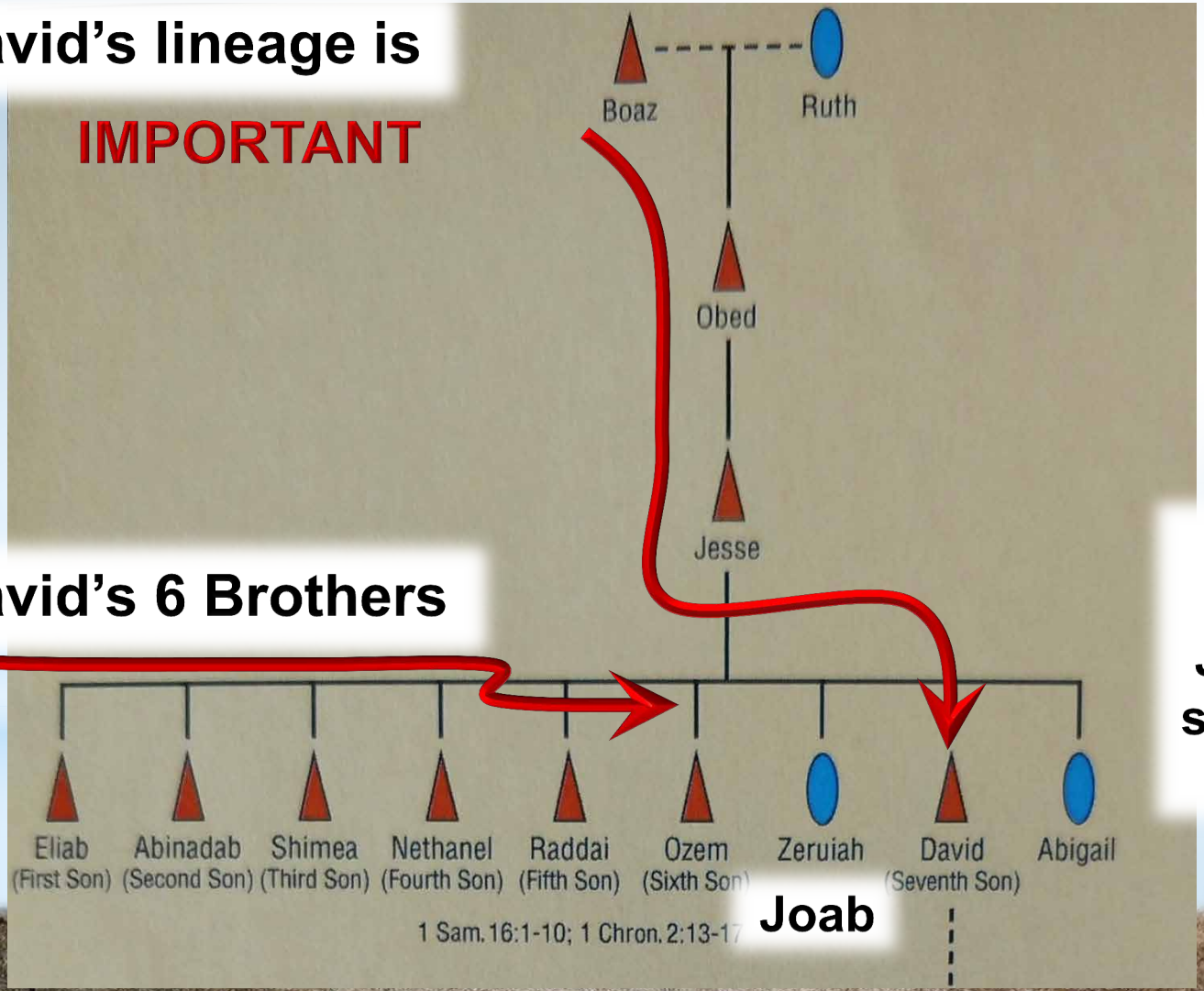
David's First Born!

Born while in Hebron

2 Samuel 3 opens with David's sons …

David's lineage is

IMPORTANT



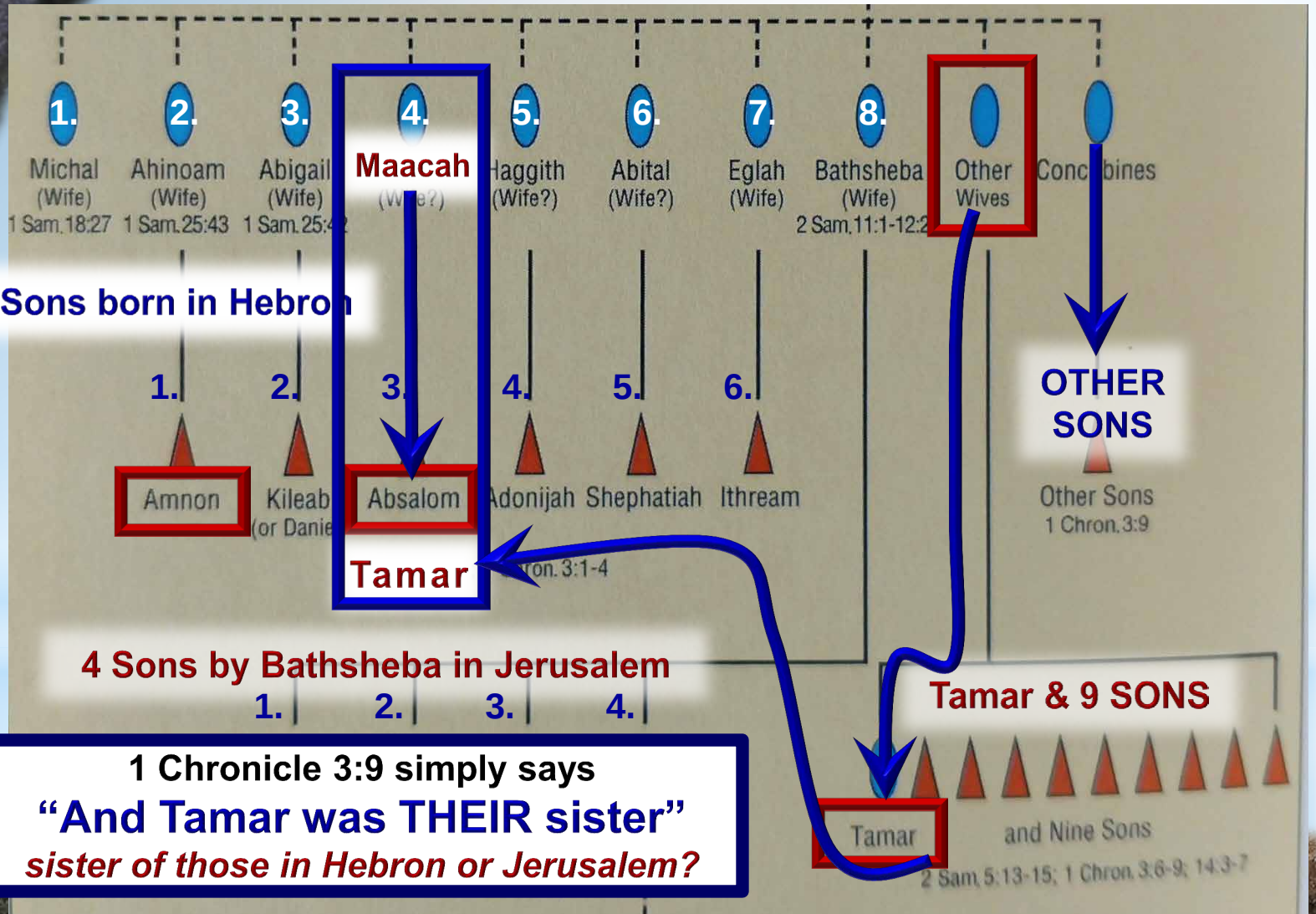
David's 6 Brothers

Joab

David is the 7th Son
or 8th child w 2 Sisters

Joab is his nephew
son to David's sister
Zeruiah

David has 8 wives of record … & other wives



That's 19+ sons

Notice Lineage
Amnon
Absalom
Tamar

Tamar was "THEIR sister"

Most see Tamar as a daughter of Maacah

Whether born in Hebron or Jerusalem

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

Therefore, story makes MORE sense

With BOTH Absalom & Tamar the children of Maacah born in Hebron

They're closer among so many siblings

PLUS, Maacah was the daughter of

King Talmi of Geshur

east of Sea of Galilee, west of Bashan

Tamar is the daughter of a Princess

Full sister of Absalom & Half-sister to 19

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

Also makes Tamar NOT Jewish

However, Deut. 21:10-14 gives special instructions for women taken in war

21:11, "if you see among the captives a beautiful woman & are attracted to her, you may take her as your wife."

- ✓ **Shave her head … trim her nails**
- ✓ **Put aside clothes she was captured in**
- ✓ **Let her mourn her parents 1 full month**
- ✓ **If not pleased, you cannot sell her**

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

What seems to be important …

Absalom & Tamar are NOT Hebrews

They are NOT born Jews …

So … as the sordid tale unfolds …

They ARE children of King David

But they are NOT accepted by the BIG brothers as truly THEIR siblings

We will see that as the story unfolds

MOREOVER – they are better looking!

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

So, their mother Maacah was beautiful

13:1 Tamar, "beautiful sister of Absalom"

Tamar = "Palm Tree" … she's a *Virgin*

Virgins wore unique garments, which she tears

Absalom = "Father of Peace"

Likewise, 2 Sam 14:25-27,

None like Absalom – so Handsome

Annual haircut – 200 Shekels = 6 lbs

Absalom has 3 sons, daughter Tamar

2 Sam. 14:27 notes she is beautiful too

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

There are all these brothers … 19-plus

Handsome Absalom & ONE named sister, the Beautiful Tamar …

And Amnon, the oldest heir to throne

plus … Amnon = means "Faithful"

2 Sam. 13:2 … Amnon so obsessed

So obsessed he fell ill … Love-Sick

Amnon's adviser Jonadab is called a

"very shrewd man"

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

Jonadab helps Amnon *CONNIVE*

v. 5, Jonadab said,

"Go to bed and pretend to be ill."

"When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come & give me something to eat…."

Amnon asks King David for Tamar

King David sends Tamar to Amnon

Amnon & Tamar, by Jan Steen (c. 1626-79)

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

Amnon, heir apparent, now involves his own father in his deception

Tamar the "Palm Tree" comes

Amnon sends all away …

Amnon GRABS her …

11 "Come to bed with me, my sister."

12-13, she resists, mentions disgrace

Even that king would give her to him

to be his wife!

Amnon & Tamar, by Jan Steen (c. 1626-79)

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

Then that ominous verse …

[14] But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her

What is SHOCKING is how LITTLE this shook the palace

only shook Absalom … *who steamed*

Absalom helps her … but look closer

Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

How many women?

Too many … for too long

Today … still a problem

Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

13:1-14 Rape – Amnon Fakes Sick … Lies to David … Rapes Tamar

Because Amnon felt he COULD

Because Amnon felt no fear

Because Amnon DID Rape WHO?

Daughter of Feared King David

There is another unpleasant question

How many other … virgins did

Amnon Rape?

We know little about Amnon … but this

If Tamar, then there were … *many more*

BEFORE

Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

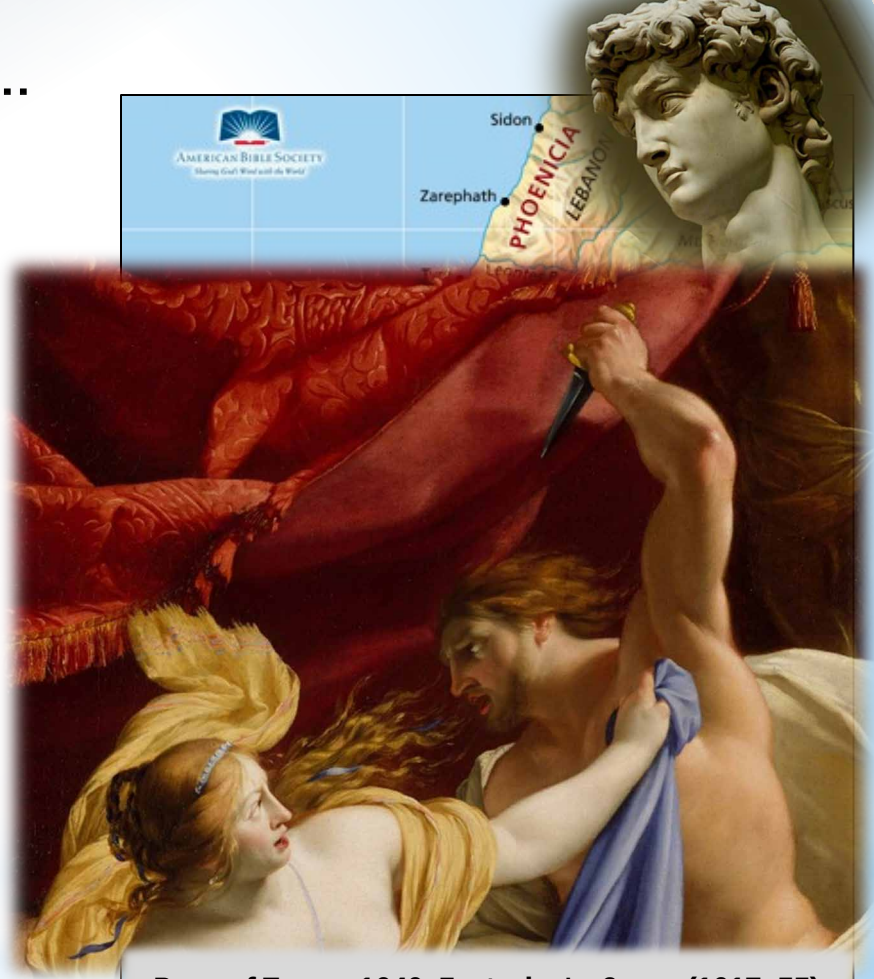
13:15-20 Shame – Tamar Shamed … Absalom Consoles "*shhhh*"

15 Then Amnon hated her
with intense hatred.
In fact, he hated her more than
he had loved her.
Amnon said to her,
"Get up and get out!"

Oh yeah … not Amnon's first RAPE

Here, we see almost all we need

I suspect MANY knew what he was



Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

13:15-20 Shame – Tamar's Shame … Absalom Consoles "*shhhh*"

16 "No!" Tamar said to him.

"Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me."

But he refused to listen to her.

REALLY … Honor? …

Says so much about HER Honor

More than the RAPE … sending her away was WORSE to HER day to Her!

Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

13:15-20 Shame – Tamar Shamed … Absalom Consoles "*shhhh*"

No longer a virgin handicapped her

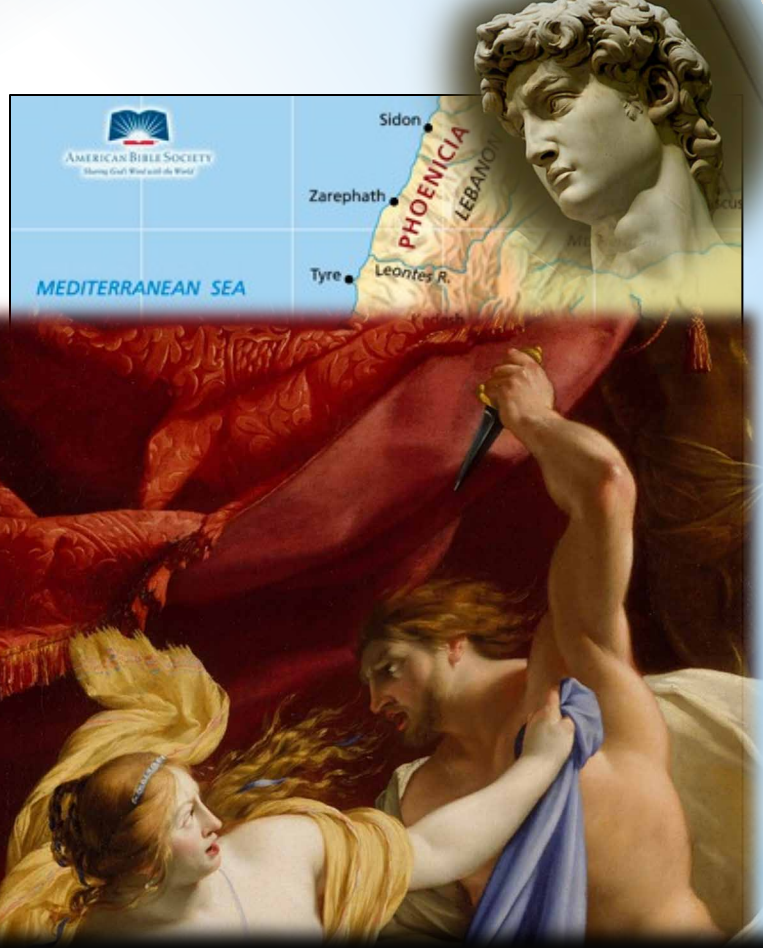
if you dislike Amnon now, look at this

17 He called his personal servant
and said,

"Get this woman OUT OF MY SIGHT
and BOLT the door after her."

18 So his servant put her out and
bolted the door after her.

Amnon the Despicable …



abysmal dishonor in Jerusalem

13:15-20 Shame – Tamar Shamed … Absalom Consoles "*shhhh*"

- ✓ At the bidding of the King David
- ✓ Coming to AID an ill brother
- ✓ Her virtue and life destroyed

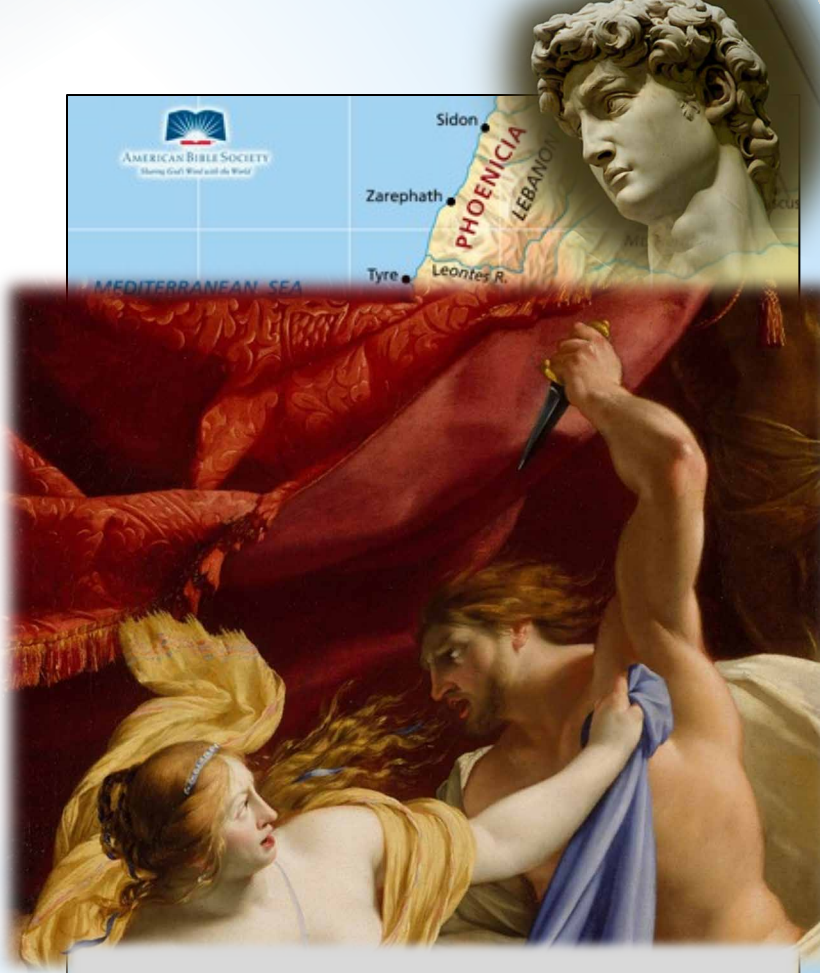
Then … kicked out like a …

This sordid scenario tells a LOT about the "family" of King David

Amnon … heir apparent to throne

Amnon … Spoiled … Selfish … Rapist

Amnon … *OUT OF CONTROL*



Rape of Tamar, 1640, Eustache Le Sueur (1617–55)

Kicked out of Amnon's apartment

Does she have to FIND her way home

Was it dark outside? Were people watching her?

18 She was wearing an ornate robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore.

19 Tamar put ashes on her head & tore the ornate robe she was wearing.

She put her hands on her head

and she went away,

weeping aloud as she went.

Kicked out of Amnon's apartment

MUST she walk alone after such humiliation

Weeping in the street … ALL KNEW …

Amnon again … where CAN she go?

She goes to her brother's place

20 Her brother Absalom said to her,

"Has that Amnon, your brother,

been with you?

Be quiet for now, my sister …

Tamar & Absalom, 1874
by Alexandre Cabanel (1823-89)

Absalom knew … when he saw her coming

When Absalom saw her gentle smile GONE

When Absalom saw her … crooked frown

Absalom KNEW what Amnon did

[20] Be quiet for now, my sister;

he is your brother.

Don't take this thing to heart."

And Tamar lived in her brother
Absalom's house, a desolate woman.

Tamar & Absalom, 1874
by Alexandre Cabanel (1823-89)

Surely … because of King David's *NOTHING*

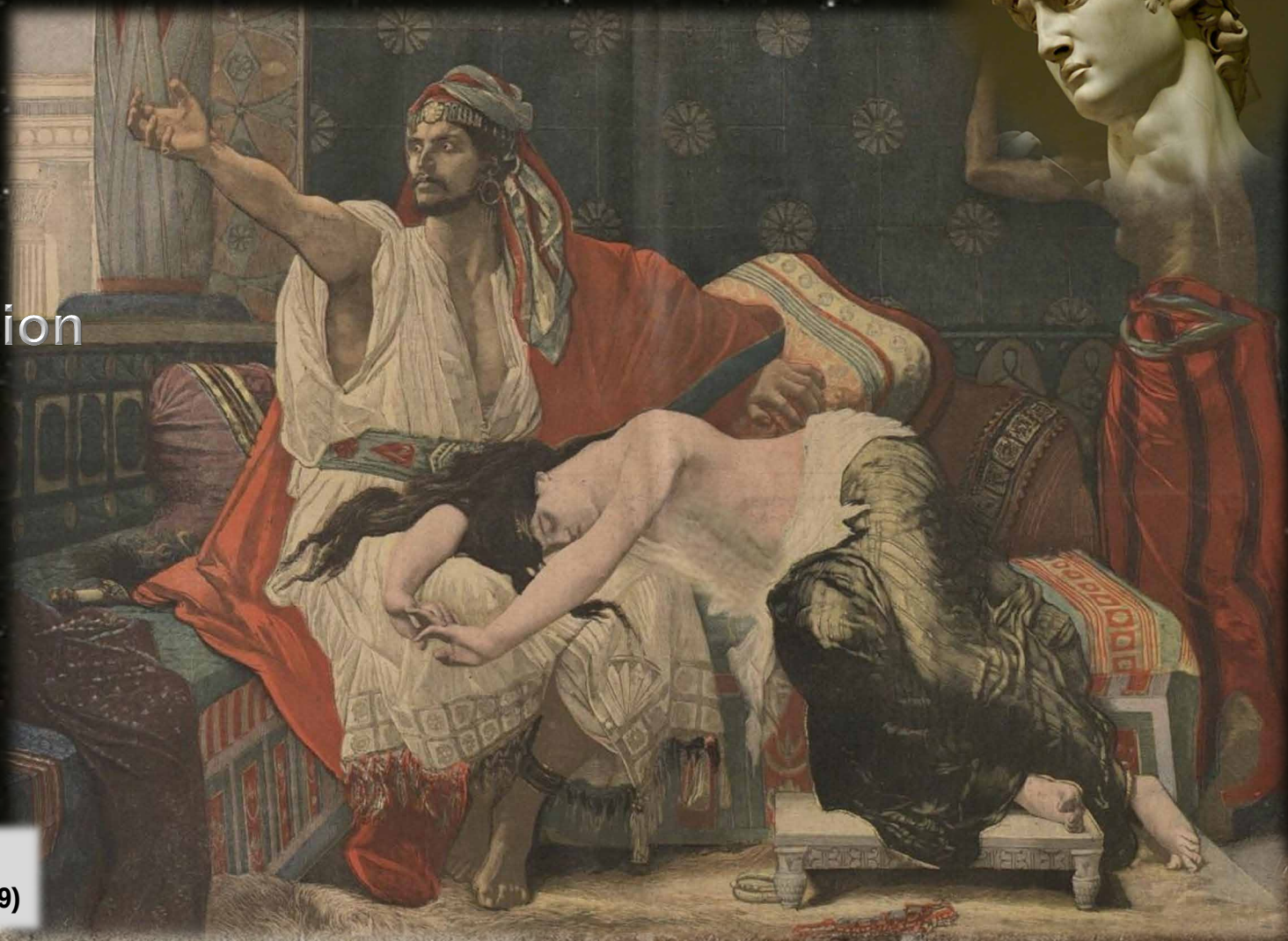
Thus begins …

Absalom's drift

Absalom's plan

Absalom's rebellion

Who is the man of HONOR here?



Tamar & Absalom, 1874
by Alexandre Cabanel (1823-89)

13:21-22 Rage – David Furious … Nothing … Absalom Silent Rage

21 When King David heard all this,

he was furious.

King David—when he got angry,

When King of Ammonites died, David sent men who were humiliated

King of Ammonites "heard" of David's anger – hired 20,000 mercenaries

Now … David is angry … but

Does NOTHING

13:21-22 Rage – David Furious … Nothing … Absalom Silent Rage

21 When King David heard all this, he was furious.

But the Bible gives us NOTHING

Remember Nathan parable to David?

David's first response to rich snob taking the poor man's sheep—DEATH!

Then Checked himself … pay back 4x

David's CHECKING his anger these days

13:21-22 Rage – David Furious … Nothing … Absalom Silent Rage

21 When King David heard all this,

he was furious.

King David got angry …

But King David did NOTHING

22 And Absalom never said a word
to Amnon, either good or bad;

he hated Amnon because he had

disgraced his sister Tamar.

Can you imagine … one cool evening

Mephibosheth & Benaiah on the Palace balcony

They know … Tamar was raped by Amnon …

Mephib says to Benaiah, “You have a sister?”

“Absalom knows better,” Benny replies.

There is a pause … both shake their heads …

Benaiah whispers, “Just wait … such dishonor”

Then Benaiah says, “Absalom will not rest.”

Looking into the sunset, Benaiah, “I would not rest.”

Mephib whispers “King David is …” *but stops*

Benaiah Killing Man of Moab, 1829
by William Etty

13:23-29 Plot – Two Years Later
Absalom Plots & Kills Amnon

23 Two years later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor

On the border of Ephraim …
about 25 miles north of Jerusalem

Absalom invited all the king's sons to come

24-28, Absalom asked the king to come

Nope … so how about Amnon … *NO*

but because Absalom urged
King sent Amnon & rest of sons

Plot is Set

13:23-29 Plot – Two Years Later
Absalom Plots & Kills Amnon

Long time … two years … NOW

28 Absalom ordered his men,

"Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you,

'Strike Amnon down,'

then KILL him.

Don't be afraid. Haven't I given you this order? Be strong and brave."

Banquet of Absalom, c. 1650, by Niccolò De Simone

13:23-29 Plot – Two Years Later
Absalom Plots & Kills Amnon

After two long years …

29 Absalom's men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered.

Then all the king's sons got up, mounted their mules and fled.

They are 25 miles from Jerusalem

Ride ALL they way back to Jerusalem

You know they ALL know WHY?

But a messenger RIDES ahead FAST

Banquet of Absalom, c. 1650, by Niccolò De Simone

13:30-33 Weeping – David Hears "ALL Sons Killed" then only Amnon

Talk about your Fake News

30 While they were on their way,
the report came to David:

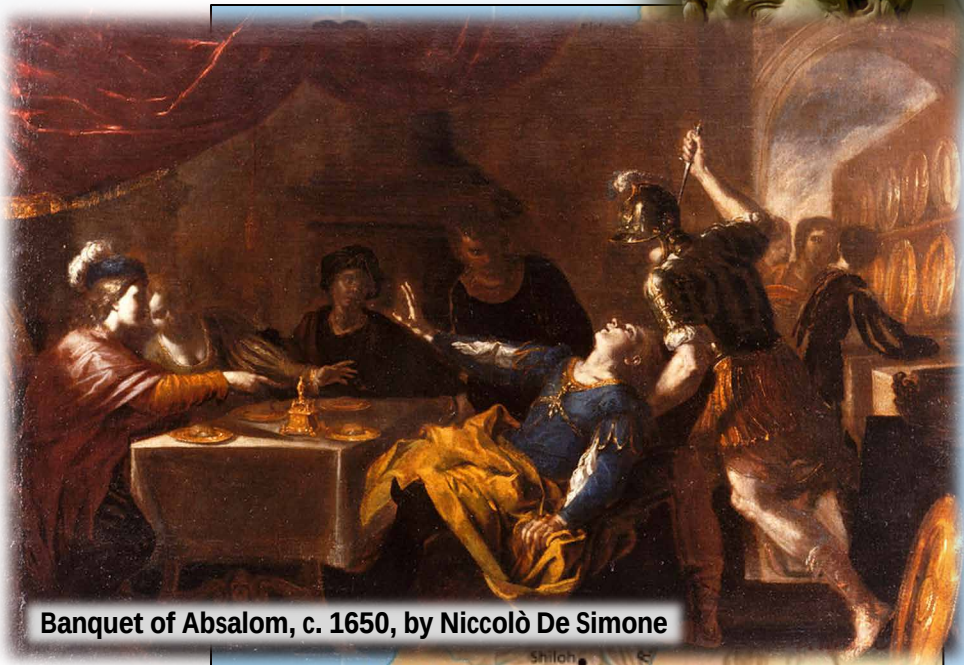
"Absalom has struck down all
the king's sons;

not one of them is left."

31 The king stood up, tore his clothes
and lay down on the ground; and
all his attendants stood by
with their clothes torn.

Banquet of Absalom, c. 1650, by Niccolò De Simone

13:30-33 Weeping – David Hears "ALL Sons Killed" then only Amnon



Banquet of Absalom, c. 1650, by Niccolò De Simone

Good insider information comes

32 But Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother, said,

"My lord should not think that they killed all the princes; only Amnon is dead.

This has been Absalom's express intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar.

NOTE: Tamar as Absalom's sister … she is also Amnon's

13:30-33 Weeping – David Hears "ALL Sons Killed" then only Amnon

To reinforce … Jonadab repeats

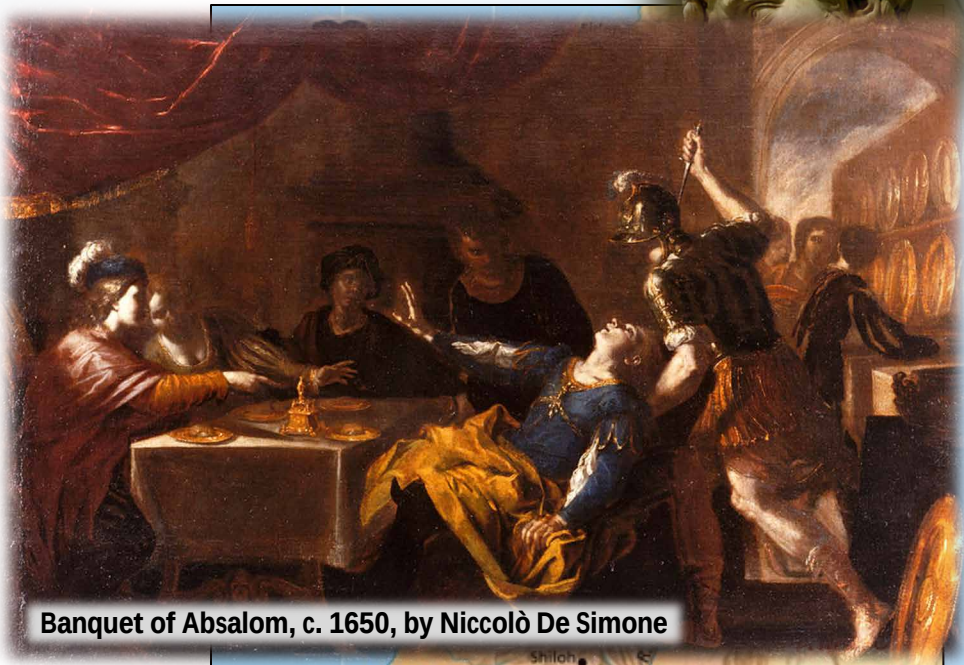
33 My lord the king should not be concerned about the report that all the king's sons are dead.

Only Amnon is dead."

That is better news … yet still hard

This is hard on David … David is

Tiring of war … Tiring of bloodshed



Banquet of Absalom, c. 1650, by Niccolò De Simone

13:34-38 Flight – Absalom Flees to Geshur … Three Years

Not all the sons … just Amnon

Obviously, good-looking Absalom is NOT so favored as Amnon …

34 Meanwhile, Absalom had fled….

35 Jonadab said to the king, "See, the king's sons have come; it has happened just as your servant said."

36, other sons arrive … ALL weep

All Weep for Rapist Amnon

13:34-38 Flight – Absalom Flees to Geshur … Three Years

REMEMBER … Jonadab told King David it was Absalom's plan since that *DAY*

Seemed ALL knew except Amnon

Yet … I have to ask this question …

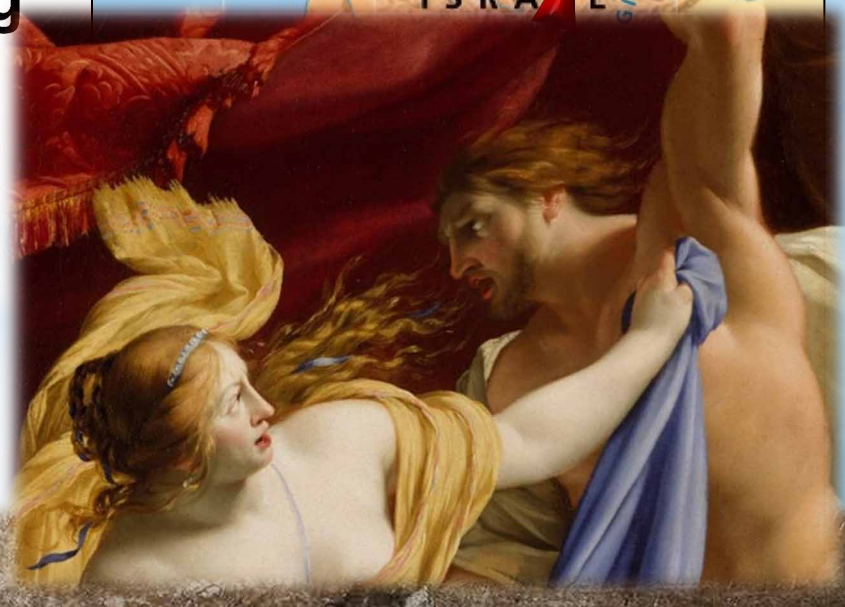
You know who else was NOT weeping

Tamar … few other women

fathers & brothers in Jerusalem, too

Many … many did NOT WEEP AT

Death of Amnon



13:34-38 Flight – Absalom Flees to Geshur … Three Years

OUR DAY does't use the Death Penalty

For RAPE

But … dare we REALLY deal with this?

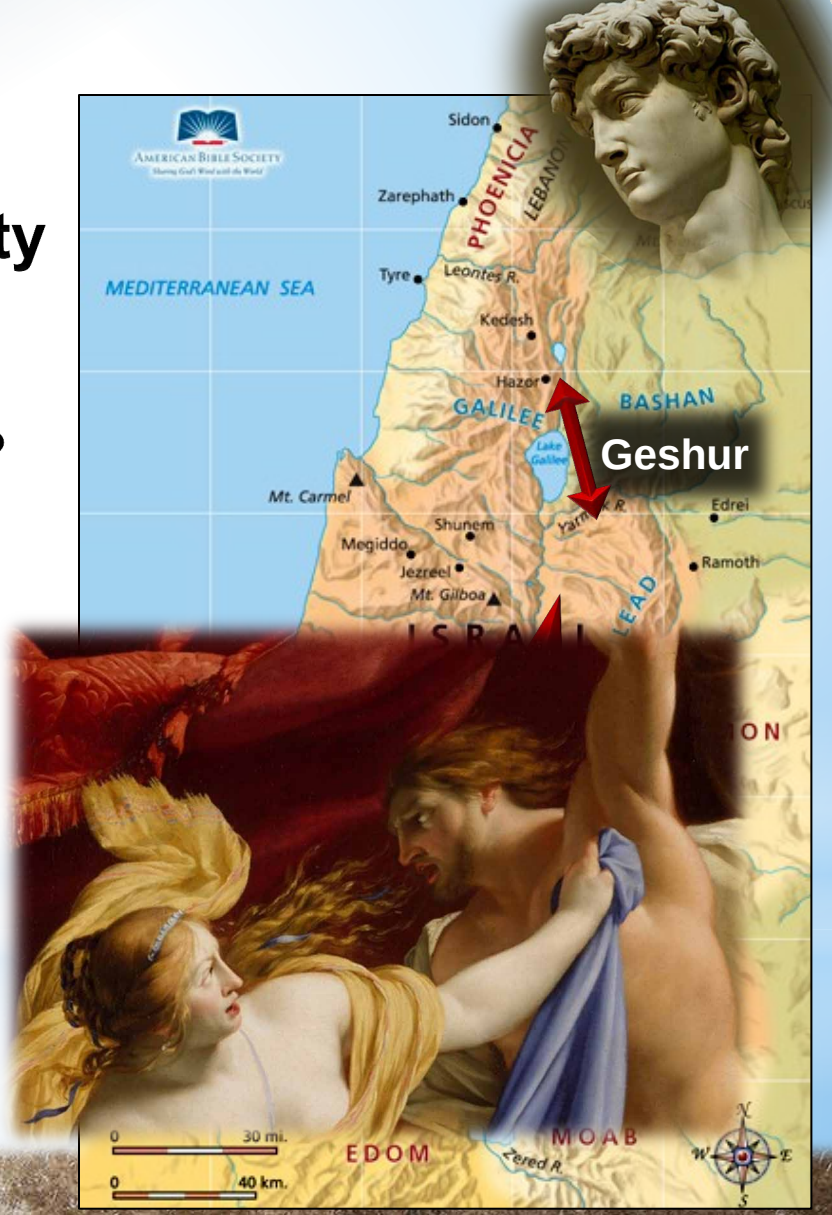
What if it was YOUR virgin sister?

Daughter? … Granddaughter?

No One … No One wept for

Tamar

Who was a beautiful virgin now living a desolate life with Absalom



13:34-38 Flight – Absalom Flees to Geshur … Three Years

Absalom … has LEARNED … is sharp

He KNOWS they are not PURE Royalty

Where CAN he go? …

He goes to Grandpa's

37 Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur.

Absalom went to his mother's FATHER

King David mourned Amnon many days

38, Absalom to Geshur … 3 years

13:39 Longing – David Consoled … Longs for Absalom

39 And King David longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death.

David loved Amnon … loved Absalom

But King David had been a WARRIOR

King David had been at war too LONG

If we had not the Psalms … we MIGHT

Might be inclined to say & wonder

Did David Understand LOVE at ALL?

13:39 Longing – David Consoled … Longs for Absalom

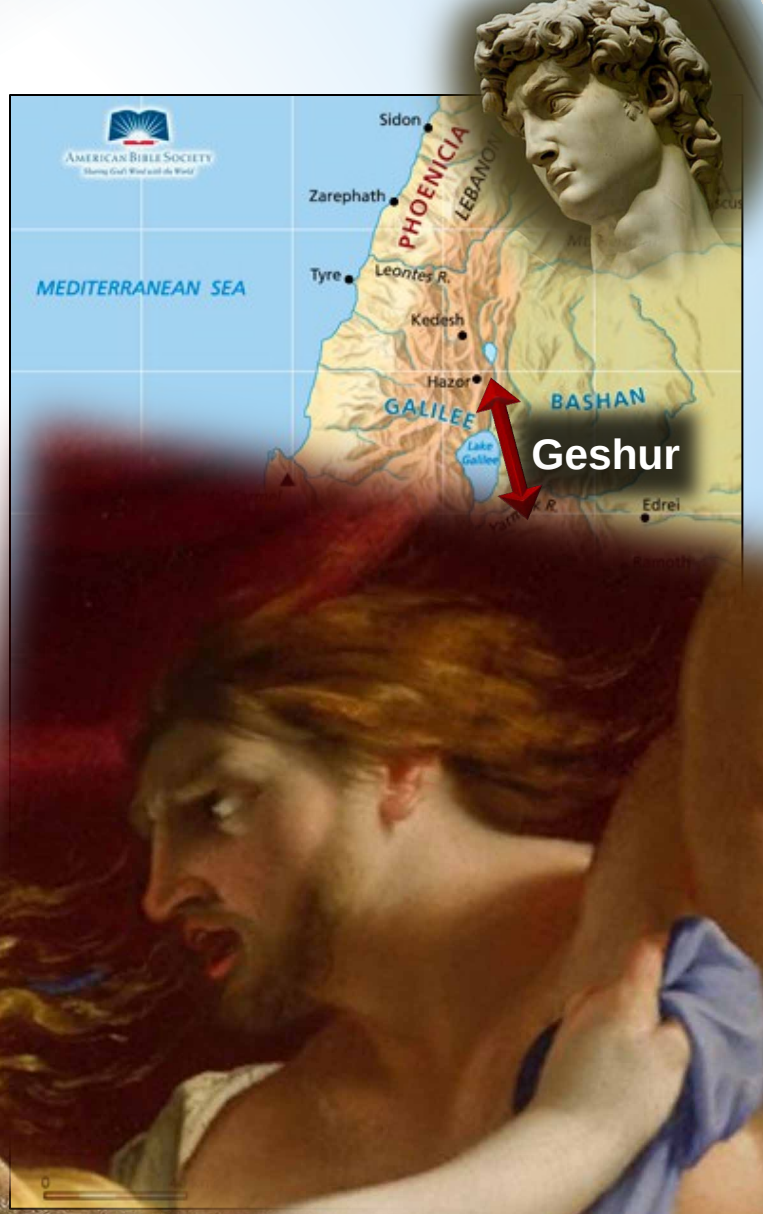
Harder still for us … today … is to bring this story to the gospel

Where is the SPIRITUAL relevance?

Surely it is NOT SOLELY that God will make our sons into rapists for our sin

Nor is it SOLELY that our lack of attention will turn our sons into

Monster Amnons



13:39 Longing – David Consoled … Longs for Absalom

What of Tamar? … Princess' Daughter

What of women today?

Can a SPIRITUAL lesson, principle, or piece of wisdom be seen in the

Victim?

She was a virgin … INNOCENT

Sent by the King … on a mission of

MERCY

13:39 Longing – David Consoled … Longs for Absalom

What would be an utter tragedy … is

- ✓ to blame her RAPE on David's fling
- ✓ to blame her RAPE on her beauty
- ✓ to blame her RAPE on David's neglect of Amnon

Likewise, we cannot blame Amnon's death solely on Absalom

Likewise, we cannot avoid SOME amount of LOVE for Absalom

13:39 Longing – David Consoled … Longs for Absalom

What would be an utter tragedy … is

- ✓ to blame Amnon's death SOLELY on Absalom
- ✓ to see weeping of brothers for Amnon but NONE for Tamar
- ✓ to see David longing to see Absalom … YEARS after

We know … in our hearts is that

Tamar was Innocent

13:39 Longing – David Consoled …
Longs for Absalom

I cann't help being thankful for our

U.S.A.

One lesson seems to run through this whole sordid story

May Justice have SWIFT feet

Just a couple of weeks ago, we celebrated the Fourth of July

Independence … with the RIGHT to a

Speedy Trial of our Peers

13:39 Longing – David Consoled …
Longs for Absalom

If King David had punished Amnon's

First Rape

If King David had at least punished

Amnon's Rape of Tamar

Sheese … but this was 1000 B.C.

We've come a long way since A.D. 33

We've come a long way since 1776

Still Let Us Seek Justice Today