

ABSALOM

³¹ *Now David had been told, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” So David prayed, “LORD, turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness.”*

II Samuel 15:31

¹⁴ *Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel.” For the LORD had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.*

II Samuel 17:14

²⁵ *In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.* ²⁶ *Whenever he cut the hair of his head--he used to cut his hair once a year because it became too heavy for him--he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard.*

II Samuel 14:25,26

I. Understanding the spirit of Absalom

A. Absaloms cultivate the exterior at the expense of the interior. (II Samuel 15:1)

¹ *In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him.*

B. Absaloms flatter lavishly. (II Samuel 15:2)

² *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?” He would answer, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel.”*

C. Absaloms subtly undermine legitimate authority. (II Samuel 15:3)

³ *Then Absalom would say to him, “Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you.”*

D. Absaloms engage in overt self-promotion. (II Samuel 15:4)

⁴ *And Absalom would add, “If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice.”*

E. Absaloms promise false justice. (II Samuel 15:5)

⁵ *Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him.*

F. Absaloms steal the hearts of the people with false humility. (II Samuel 15:5,6)

⁵ *Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him.* ⁶ *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.

- G. Absaloms seek to hide their true motives through ridiculous, overt deception. (II Samuel 15:7-8)

⁷ At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, “Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD.” ⁸ While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: ‘If the LORD takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron.’ “

- H. Absaloms want positions of power they are not qualified to have. (II Samuel 15:9,10)

⁹ The king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he went to Hebron. ¹⁰ Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, ‘Absalom is king in Hebron.’ “

- I. Absaloms lure ignorant mobs into their causes. (II Samuel 15:11)

¹¹ Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter.

- J. Absaloms recruit all bitter and disgruntled enemies. (II Samuel 15:12)

¹² While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom’s following kept on increasing.

Summary

The spirit of Absalom is characterized by gossip, contrary vision to legitimate leadership, division, rebellion, inappropriate blame. They possess an independent spirit, are bitter, and riddled with perceived offenses. They are charismatic, gifted, and talented. They are charming, cunning, subtle, and engaging; the very spirit of Lucifer himself.

II. The Absalom spirit always produces civil war.

III. The forest of Ephraim / In league with the stones
(II Samuel 18:6-8; Job 5:22,23)

[2Sa 18:6-8 NIV] ⁶ *David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim.*

⁷ *There Israel's troops were routed by David's men, and the casualties that day were great--twenty thousand men.* ⁸ *The battle spread out over the whole countryside, and the forest swallowed up more men that day than the sword.*

[Job 5:22-23 NIV] ²² *You will laugh at destruction and famine, and need not fear the wild animals.* ²³ *For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you.*

A. The elements themselves fight against rebellion.
(I Samuel 15:23)

²³ *For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."*

B. God has arsenals of inanimate nature to fight his enemies.
(Job 38:22,33)

²² *“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, ... ³³ Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?*

C. In Gibeon, He used hail stones. (Joshua 10:11)

¹¹ *As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.*

D. Against Sisera, He used the stars in their courses. (Judges 5:20)

²⁰ *From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.*

E. Against Korah, He used earth and fire. (Numbers 26:10)

¹⁰ *The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them along with Korah, whose followers died when the fire devoured the 250 men. And they served as a warning sign.*

F. To be in harmony with the Lord of nature is to be in harmony with nature itself.

G. All things fight against those who fight against God.

H. Everything in nature is a friend to one who knows God. (Hosea 2:18; Ezekiel 34:25)

[Hos 2:18 NIV] ¹⁸ *In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety.*

[Eze 34:25 NIV] ²⁵ “ *I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of savage beasts so that they may live in the wilderness and sleep in the forests in safety.*

- I. The very elements of the forest fed David, and swallowed Absalom’s army.
- J. Absalom’s young recruits could not handle David’s old soldiers in forest terrain.
- K. The wooded landscape removed all sense of direction, so the soldiers wandered aimlessly and got lost.
- L. Absalom hung between earth and heaven, as one rejected of both and not fit to live in either.
- M. Absalom hung for a while, and then was horribly abused by Joab and his men and given a traitor’s burial.
- N. Mutilated Absalom can’t fall any further; he is covered with stones with his name left only on a stone pillar.

“The memory of the righteous is blessed but the name of the wicked will rot.” (Proverbs 10:7)

