

COUNTERFEITS ON THE THRESHOLD

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

I Corinthians 4:5

³¹ Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. ³² For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 37:31,32

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

I Samuel 16:6,7

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

⁹ *“Yet I destroyed the Amorites before them, though they were tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks. I destroyed their fruit above and their roots below.*

Amos 2:9

¹⁰ *The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.*

Matthew 3:10

- I. Only God can surface counterfeits on the threshold. / Meet Absalom. 12 traits.
 - A. Absaloms cultivate the exterior at the expense of the interior. (II Samuel 15:1)
 - B. Absaloms flatter lavishly. (II Samuel 15:2)
 - C. Absaloms engage in overt self-promotion. (II Samuel 15:4)
 - D. Absaloms promise false justice. (II Samuel 15:5)
 - E. Absaloms subtly undermine legitimate authority. (II Samuel 15:3)
 - F. Absaloms steal the hearts of the people with false humility. (II Samuel 15:5,6)
 - G. Absaloms seek to hide their true motives through ridiculous, overt deception. (II Samuel 15:7-8)
 - H. Absaloms want positions of power they are not qualified to have. (II Samuel 15:9,10)

- I. Absaloms lure ignorant mobs into their causes.
(II Samuel 15:11)
- J. Absaloms recruit all bitter and disgruntled enemies.
(II Samuel 15:12)
- K. 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.
- L. The Absalom spirit always produces civil war.
- II. The forest of Ephraim / In league with the stones. 13 facts.
(II Samuel 18:6-8; Job 5:22,23)
 - A. The elements themselves fight against rebellion.
(I Samuel 15:23)
 - B. God has arsenals of inanimate nature to fight his enemies.
(Job 38:22,33)
 - C. In Gibeon, He used hail stones. (Joshua 10:11)
 - D. Against Korah, He used earth and fire. (Numbers 26:10)
 - E. All things fight against those who fight against God.
(Hosea 2:18)
 - F. Against Sisera, He used the stars in their courses.
(Judges 5:20)
 - G. To be in harmony with the Lord of nature is to be in harmony with nature itself.

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