

# ABISHAG

## CO-REDEMPTRESS OF IMPOSSIBLE PASTS

*<sup>1</sup> When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. <sup>2</sup> So his attendants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.” <sup>3</sup> Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.*

I Kings 1:1-3

*“<sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.”*

II Samuel 12:10

- I. Pardoned but punished. / The forgotten fact in an age of hyper grace.
  - A. Moses was pardoned but punished – he viewed, but was never able to enter, the promised land.
  - B. Aaron was pardoned but punished – he also never entered the promised land.
  - C. Samson was pardoned but punished – he was forgiven, but never regained his sight.
  - D. David was pardoned, but punished – the last 20 years of his life brought a sword of consequences against his entire family and kingdom.

- II. David's fourfold whirlwind / The sword of consequences
- A. David and Bathsheba's son died. (II Samuel 12:15,18)
  - B. David's eldest son, Amnon, raped his half-sister, Tamar. (II Samuel 13:1-2)
  - C. David's son, Absalom, grew to hate Amnon. (II Samuel 13:22)
  - D. Absalom conspires to, and then kills, Amnon. (II Samuel 13:23-29)
  - E. Absalom is exiled from his father for five years. (II Samuel 13:37-39;14:24)
  - F. Absalom leads a public rebellion against David. (II Samuel 15-17)
  - G. Absalom publicly disgraces David by committing adultery with his concubines on top of the king's palace. (II Samuel 16:21-22)
  - H. Absalom is murdered by David's nephew, Joab. (II Samuel 18:32-33)
  - I. David's son, Adonijah, seeks to usurp David's throne.
  - J. David's sin affected his family more than it did anyone else.
  - K. David's sin tarnished his name. (Psalm 41:8)  
*<sup>8</sup> "A vile disease has afflicted him; he will never get up from the place where he lies."*
  - L. David's sin caused him constant grief and heartache. (Psalm 55:4)

*<sup>4</sup> My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen on me.*

- III. David breaks all the Ten Commandments in one act of disordered love
- A. You shall have no other gods before me – David replaces God with lust. (Exodus 20:3)
  - B. You shall make no idols – David replaced God with the image of a naked woman. (Exodus 20:4-6)
  - C. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain – David caused God to be blasphemed before the entire world of gentile nonbelievers. (Exodus 20:7)
  - D. You shall remember the sabbath day to make it holy – David stains every day moving forward for his nation, family, and himself. (Exodus 20:8-11)
  - E. Honor thy mother and thy father – David desecrates his entire family unit moving forward. (Exodus 20:12)
  - F. You shall not murder – David earns a universal death sentence. (Exodus 20:13)
  - G. You shall not commit adultery – David earns a second universal, death sentence. (Exodus 20:14)
  - H. You shall not steal – David steals the only lamb of his faithful bodyguard, Uriah. (Exodus 20:15)
  - I. You shall not bear false witness – David proves himself the consummate liar by covering his sins for a year. (Exodus 20:15)
  - J. You shall not covet – David stains his future for one act and moment of pleasure. (Exodus 20:15)

#### IV. Sowing and weeping

- A. We always reap exactly what we sow.
- B. We always reap more than what we sow.
- C. We will reap what we sow in this life.

#### V. What does God's mercy guarantee?

- A. When we confess and repent of our sins.
  - \* God is not angry with us anymore.
  - \* God is with us as His beloved.
  - \* God will stand with us and help us face the consequences of our sins.

#### VI. Abishag – God's partner in redeeming David's impossible past

- A. Abishag helped navigate the labyrinth between David's head and heart.
- B. Abishag was the connecting wire in David's bed chamber to interpret and re-explain all David already knew about his "beloved status."
- C. We need safe others as mirrors to host God presence, so what we know in our heads can drop into our hearts.
- D. When we confess and forsake our sins,
  - \* God is no longer angry with us.
  - \* God is for us as His beloved.
  - \* God will help us face any and all consequences of our sins.
  - \* Because of Christ, we are victors and never victims!