

2 Sam. 15 : 1-12. Study vs. 1-23. Commit to memory vs. 4-6.

Read 2 Sam. chs. 13, 14.

1 And it came to pass after this, that Ab'salom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 And Ab'salom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and if any man came that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Ab'salom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

3 And Ab'salom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

4 Ab'salom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

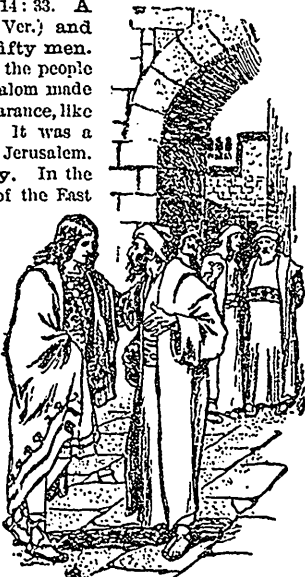
6 And on this manner did Ab'salom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Ab'salom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Revised Version—1 a chariot; 2 any man had a suit which should come; 3 took hold of; 4 at the end of; 5 indeed bring me again to Jerusalem; 6's king; 7 that were invited, and went; 8 the.

EXPLANATION

Connection—Returning to the history of David, ch. 8 gives a brief account of how David governed his kingdom. Chs. 9 and 10 relate the kindness of David to Mephibosheth and his war with Hahun, king of the Ammonites. The great sin of David and its results are described in chs. 11, 12. Chs. 13 and 14 tell of the quarrel between Absalom and Amnon, and Absalom's flight, return and reconciliation with his father.

1-4. After this; after the reconciliation with his father, ch. 14 : 33. A chariot (Rev. Ver.) and horses, and fifty men. In order to win the people to his side, Absalom made a splendid appearance, like foreign kings. It was a new thing in Jerusalem. Rose up early. In the hot countries of the East public business is always attended to early. The way of the gate. It was the custom of kings to sit in the road leading to their palace gate, and there receive those who had business with them. A controversy; a dispute to be settled by the king. Called; pretending to



Absalom at the Gate

7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Ab'salom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the Lord, in Hebron.

8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the Lord shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.

9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

10 But Ab'salom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Ab'salom reigneth in Hebron.

11 And with Ab'salom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not anything.

12 And Ab'salom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city, even from Gilead, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Ab'salom.

have a great interest in him. See, thy matters. He flattered each man by telling him that he was in the right. No man deputed; making it appear that the king had been neglectful in not appointing judges. That I were made judge. How different, Absalom hints, would things be, if he were in power!

5, 6. Do him obeisance; show him the respect due to a prince. Kissed him. Kissing was and is a common salutation amongst Eastern men. The notable thing here is a prince condescending so to the common people. Stole the hearts; robbed the king of the people's loyalty.

7-9. After forty years. This is likely an error for "four years." They were spent by Absalom in winning the favor of the people. Pay my vow. Absalom now, to deceive his father, pretends to be pious. In Hebron; his birthplace. It was the ancient capital, and being at some distance from Jerusalem, would be a good rallying place for Absalom's friends, Geshur. See ch. 3 : 3. Serve the Lord; by offering a sacrifice in fulfillment of his vow.

10-12. Sent spies; messengers, who should secretly find out who among the people were ready to rebel, and explain to them the meaning of the trumpet-blowing. Sound of the trumpet; blown by men stationed all over the land. This was to be a signal for the rebellion to begin and for the gathering of his supporters. Absalom reigneth. He was to be proclaimed king in one day all over the country. That were called; invited to the feast held in connection with the sacrifice. Absalom hoped that many of them would become his followers. Ahithophel; David's chief counselor, a very sagacious man, ch. 16 : 23. He was ready to betray his king. For his fate see ch. 17 : 23. Both in his treachery and suicide he resembled Judas Iscariot, Matt. 26 : 47-49; 27 : 5. The conspiracy; the plot against David.

Vs. 13-23 describe David's flight from Jerusalem on hearing of Absalom's revolt.