

Of what ambition was this a sign? (See 1 Kings 1. 5.)

What personal element aided in Absalom's purpose? (2 Sam. 14. 25.)

What was wrong in his course?

Where did Absalom go to seek the people?

Whom did he question, and how?

What flattery did the prince utter?

What did he say about himself?

How did he honor those who would honor him?

To whom did he show these favors?

How widely did he thus extend his influence?

Why ought "the men of Israel" to have suspected evil? (See Prov. 29. 5.)

Can you account for the seeming ignorance of Joab and of the king?

2. The Unnatural Son, v. 7-12.

Why did Absalom need the king's permission to go to Hebron?

Can you explain the difficulty connected with the time mentioned in verse 7?

How long had Absalom been in Jerusalem after his banishment? (2 Sam. 14. 28.)

How long, then, must his conspiracy have been growing?

What spirit among the people could be traced by the ease with which Absalom accomplished his purpose?

Who was Ahithophel?

What is meant by hearing the sound of the trumpet?

How successful was the conspiracy?

What is shown by it concerning the character of the people?

What is shown by it concerning the character of David?

What command did Absalom violate? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Practical Teachings.

1. See how sin overreaches itself. Absalom was heir to the throne. All he needed was to wait. He hastened and lost all.

2. See how hateful ambition is when sinful. It made Absalom a hypocrite, a liar, a murderer, an adulterer; and at last slew him.

3. Sin may run prosperously for a while, but God holds its tether; and when he will it thrusts a dart through Absalom's heart and hangs Ahithophel. Where are we warned against—

1. The wiles of the flatterer?
2. The pretenses of the hypocrite?
3. The sin of the ungrateful son?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Verses 1-6.

1. Where are horses first mentioned as in use by the Israelites? How did Absalom make himself conspicuous?

2. Where were Eastern courts held?

3. Why had David neglected to deal out justice?

4. How did Absalom seek to win favor with the people? What effect would his favorable decisions have?

5. What caused the people to pay him respect?

What mark of condescension did he show?

6. Why did people follow his lead?

2. Verses 7-12.

7. Where did he wish to pay his vow? What advantage would he have there?

8. Where was Geshur? How did Absalom propose to serve the Lord?

9. Why did David give his consent?

10. For what were the spies sent out? How was the news conveyed through the land? What two classes favored Absalom's cause?

11. How many guests went with him? Would their presence have any influence? Why was Ahithophel invited? Explain why so many were ready to forsake David?

Teachings of the Lesson.

To be good where we are is better than to pretend how good we would be in some other place. Those who crave most for high position are usually less fitted for it. Parents are willing to believe the best about their children. Good people are often imposed upon. Wrongdoing may lead to a kind of temporary success. There is trouble in store for everyone who sins against kind parents. To be in the majority is no proof that we are right.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Who was David's wicked son?

Whom did he try to please?

What did this show?

What bad thing did he do that made him leave home? **He killed his brother.**

With whom was he once more at peace?

Where did he live now? **In Jerusalem.**

What did he begin to do next?

Why did he do this?

Why did he go out in such grand style?

Why did he speak so kindly to the men he saw?

What is very evil in the sight of the Lord? **Pretending what we do not feel.**

What did Absalom ask of the king after a while?

What did he say he wanted to do?

What wicked plan had he made?

Did the king know his plan?

Lessons for Me.

Selfishness leads to evil acts.

Disobedience to parents will be punished.

God sees all our deceit and marks it.

I. His V.
Chariot

Much

Ma

II. His A

O that I

Lay n

Great

III. His I

Put fort

By...

Flatter

Eleven of
Annon's cr

here the nu

that his fall

great law, g

rebellion st

crime. It is

only a solita

fear Absalo

remained th

his father sl

fancied wron

influence wou

period. If p

was of imper

an appeal to

claims. By fi

necessary. V

tained permi

claimed him

whom we hav

ness. This w