

man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Ab'sa-lom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Is'-ra-el.

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

4 Ab'sa-lom said moreover, O 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'sa-lom to all Is'-ra-el that came to the king for judgment: so Ab'sa-lom stole the hearts of the men of Is'-ra-el.

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

8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Ge'shur in Syr'i-a, saying, If the Lord shall bring me again indeed to Je-ru'-sa-lem, then I will serve the Lord.

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

10 But Ab'sa-lom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Is'-ra-el, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Ab'sa-lom reigneth in He'bron.

11 And with Ab'sa-lom went two hundred men out of Je-ru'-sa-lem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity and they knew not anything.

12 And Ab'sa-lom sent for A-hith'o-phel the G'il'o-nite, Da'vid's counselor, from his city, *even* from Gil'oh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Ab'sa-lom.

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TIME.—B. C. 1024 and 1023. **PLACES.**—

Jerusalem; Hebron.

ENVIRONMENTS.—

Many causes combined to make possible Absalom's rebellion. David's sin in the matter of Uriah the Hittite forfeited his position as a moral leader. The sin of Amnon, with its bloody revenge by Absalom, disgraced and stained the royal household. Like most other despotisms, David's hold became weaker as one approached the capital and central government, and many a disloyalty had begun within the limits of Judah. Absalom, restored to the favor of his fond and foolish father, used his opportunity. Born of a royal mother, physically beautiful, impetuous, vain, selfish, disdainful, ungrateful, reckless, conspiracy came easy to him.

HOME READINGS.

M. Absalom's Rebellion. 2 Sam. 15. 1-12.

Tu. David's flight. 2 Sam. 15. 13-23.

W. David's submission. 2 Sam. 15. 24-31.

Th. Shimei's curse. 2 Sam. 16. 5-14.

F. Absalom's wicked intent. 2 Sam. 17. 1-14.

S. Causing sorrow to parents. Prov. 19. 20-29.

S. Rebellious children. Isa. 1. 1-9.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 92, New Canadian Hymnal.

Hark! the Saviour's voice from heaven
Speaks a pardon full and free.

No. 98, New Canadian Hymnal.

Depth of mercy, can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?

No. 102, New Canadian Hymnal.

What shall I do, where shall I flee?
I have no refuge, dear Saviour, but thee.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. The Politic Prince, v. 1-6.

Who was Absalom?

What trouble had he previously given to his father?

Who had brought about reconciliation?

For what did Absalom intend to use his restoration to the king's favor?

What was the meaning of his display, described in verses 1-3?