

GOD'S EXPECTATIONS OF A LEADER

- Aged David implored his army not to harm Absalom
- Yet Absalom had become an enemy of God and His Kingdom
- The loyalty of a leader in God's community must put God above all earthly treasures, including family
- Ideally we FIRST commit to the Lord, and THEN determine IF marriage and a family can be accommodated



COUNT THE COST

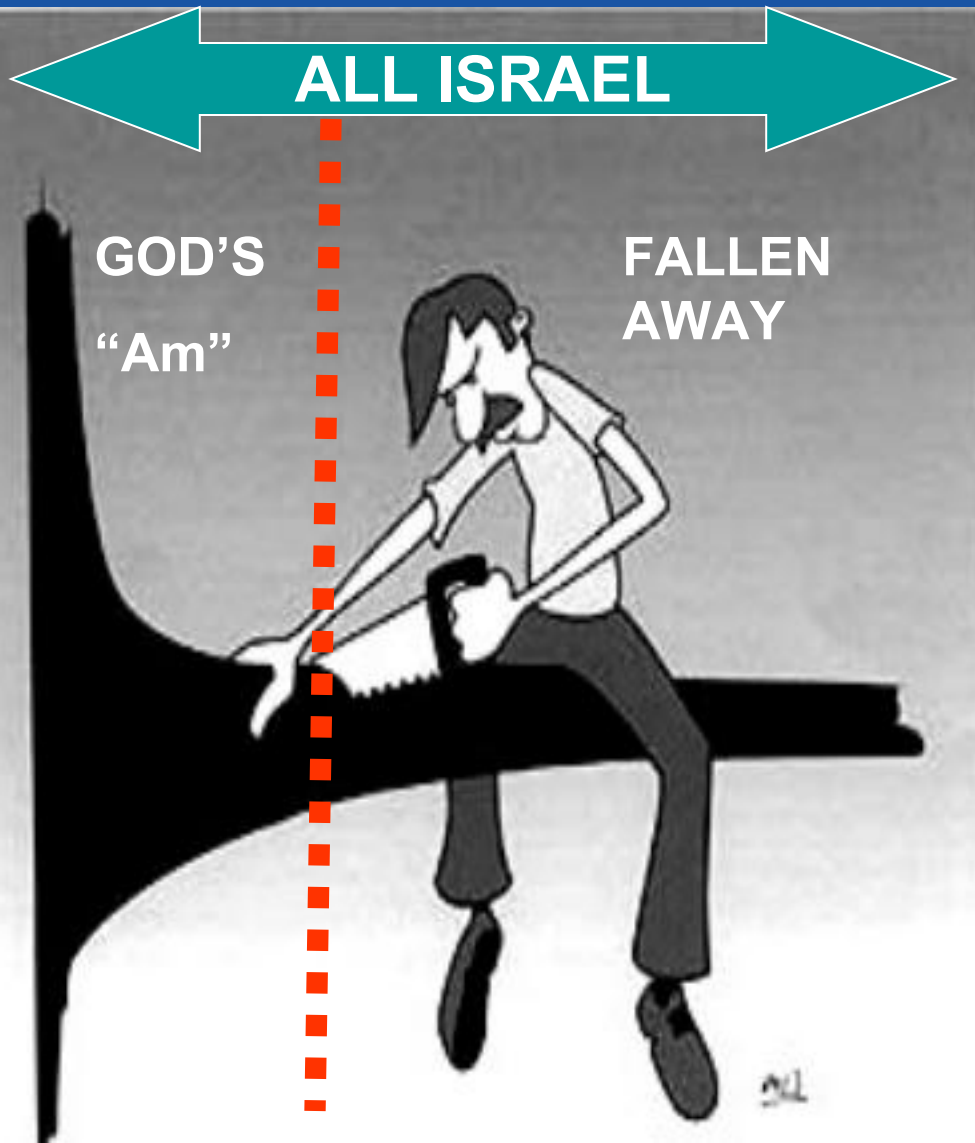


- Marriage and family BEFORE commitment to leadership necessarily limits what one can commit to
- Few are divinely destined to become Christian leaders
- St. Paul cautioned about marriage and Christian leadership
- Marriage and Christian leadership are by no means mutually exclusive!

CAUTION



THE “Am” vs. ISRAEL



- “Am” usually refers to God’s people
- Isn’t Israel also God’s people?
- The dividing line is spiritual, NOT physical
- St. Paul uses the term “true Jew” or “true Israel” to describe the same thing

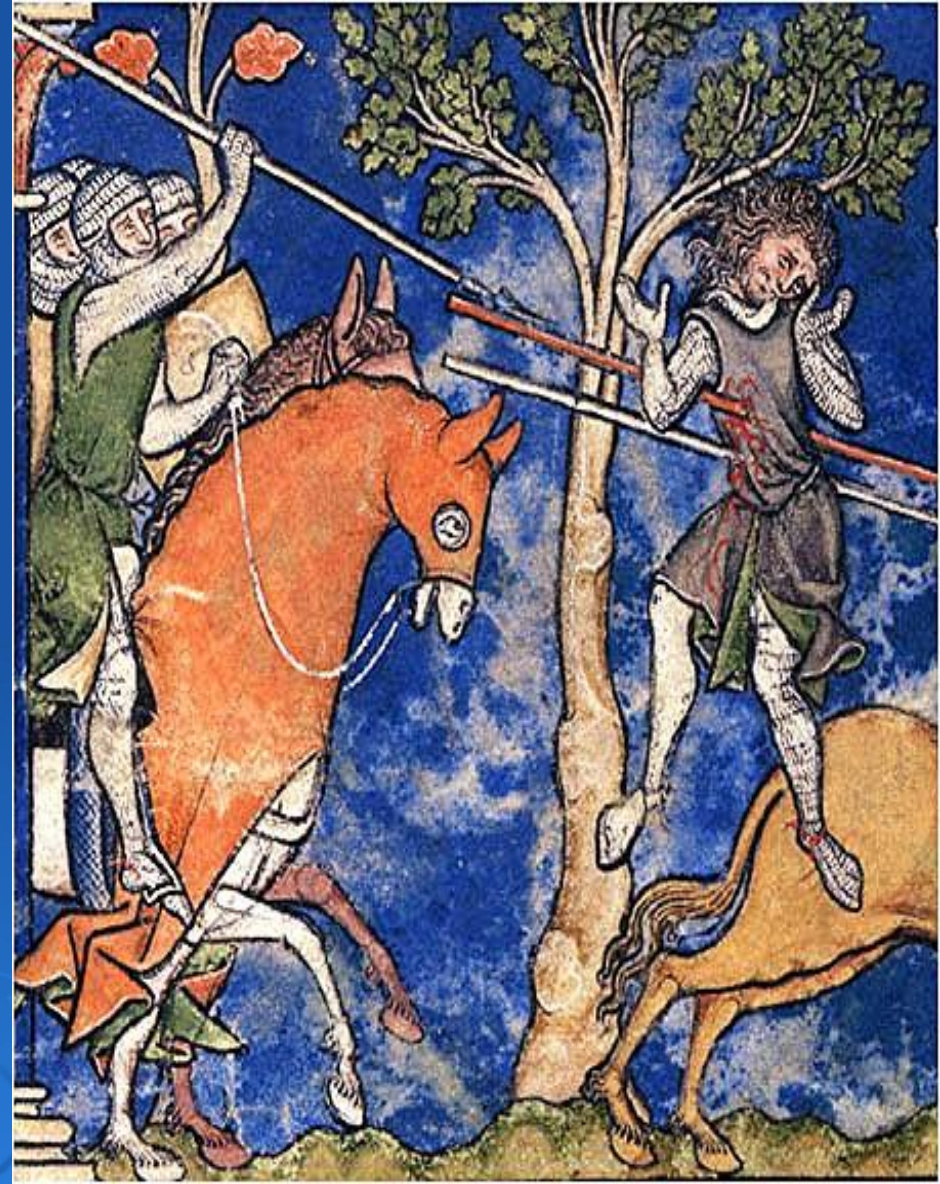
ABSALOM IS KILLED

- Battle takes place in a place called the Forest of Ephraim
- Dispute over where this forest is located
- Absalom's undisciplined troops panic and more are killed due to the terrain than by the opposition
- Bible does NOT say that Absalom was caught by his hair (*se'ar*)
- Rather he was caught by his head (*rosh*)
- This is an ancient Tradition due to the Biblical mention of his great pride in his long hair



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MULE

- Mule is a mix of a horse and a donkey
- Mules limited to royalty
- Mule departs and leaves him hanging as a divine indication that ***Avishalom*** is NOT God's king
- Soldier afraid to kill Absalom due to king's order
- Joab sticks Absalom with 3 ***shevatim***
- ***Shevatim*** = sticks (not darts)
- A ***minyán*** of 10 armor bearers finishes killing Absalom



A DISRESPECTFUL BURIAL FOR ABSALOM



- Joab stopped the battle the minute Absalom was dead
- There would need to be unity under David, and continued killing would damage that prospect
- Avishalom thrown into a pit and covered with rocks
- Similar to Akhan and the King of Ai

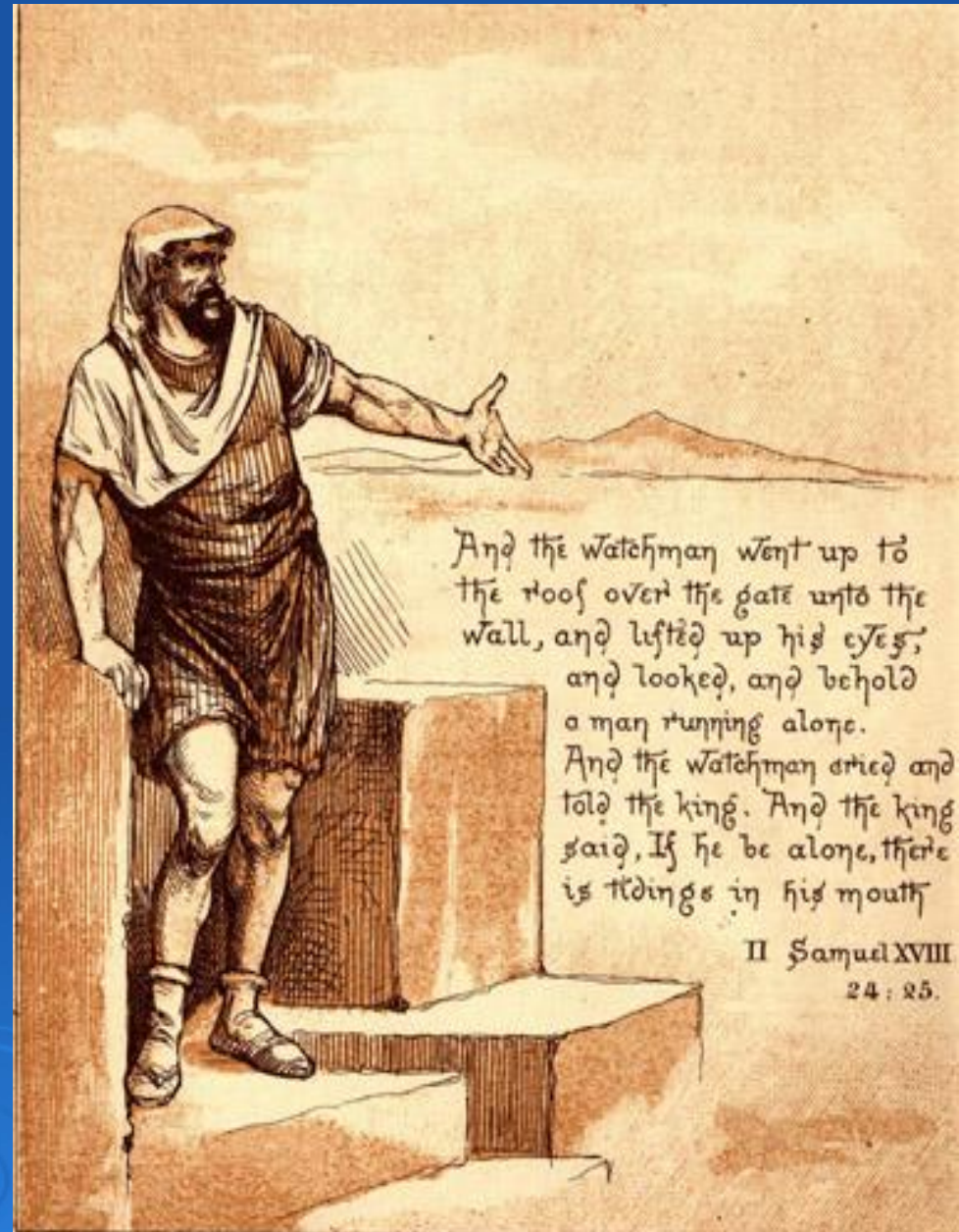
ABSALOM'S MONUMENT



- The original monument was raised by Absalom “because he didn’t have any sons”
- 2nd Sam14:27 says he had 3 sons
- Josephus says he disowned his 3 sons as not fit for a royal family
- Superstition that if a person’s name stopped being spoken that person’s afterlife would end

JOAB SENDS RUNNERS TO DAVID

- **Achima'atz** wants to run and tell David of victory!
- Joab says “no” and instead wants to send the Cushite
- **Yo'av** fears that David still has the capacity to kill the messenger over bad news
- Watchman sees the runners and calls down to David
- The Cushite (Ethiopian) gives David the news of Absalom's death
- David is devastated



2ND SAMUEL 19: DAVID MOURNS AVISHALOM



- David forgets who he is in God and what his duties are as God's anointed
- David wishes for death
- David did not have the inner strength to handle this tragedy
- He cared more for his evil son than the rest of his family and those who risked their lives for him

DAVID FEELS INTENSE GUILT

- Rashi says that the word “trembling” is referring NOT to his mourning, but to his sense of personal guilt
- All of this horror and death are the result of God’s curse upon David for his great sins
- Our sins are forgiven in Yeshua, but ONLY in the spiritual sphere
- We WILL continue to pay an earthly price

