

## 2 Samuel 13

Verses 1 - 6

Now it was after this that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David was in love with her. <sup>2</sup> But Amnon was so frustrated on account of his sister Tamar that he made himself ill, for she was a virgin, and it seemed too difficult to Amnon to do anything to her. <sup>3</sup> But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother; and Jonadab was a very clever man. <sup>4</sup> And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, so depressed morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" So Amnon said to him, "I am in love with Tamar, the sister of my brother Absalom." <sup>5</sup> Jonadab then said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill; when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please have my sister Tamar come and give me food to eat, and have her prepare the food in my sight, so that I may see *it* and eat from her hand.'" <sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please have my sister Tamar come and make me a couple of pastries in my sight, so that I may eat from her hand."

Now it was after this that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David was in love with her.

Both Absalom and Tamar were David's children by his wife Maacah. Amnon was David's firstborn son and the heir-apparent to David's throne. He was the child of Ahinoam a woman of Jezreel.

See chart 1305

These *sons* were born to David in Hebron.

Num.	Child	Mother	Background
1	Amnon	Ahinoam	the Jezreelitess
2	Chileab	Abigail	the widow of Nabal the Carmelite
3	Absalom	Maacah	the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur
4	Adonijah	Haggith	?
5	Shephatiah	Abital	?
6	Ithream	Eglah	?

**<sup>2</sup> But Amnon was so frustrated on account of his sister Tamar that he made himself ill, for she was a virgin, and it seemed too difficult to Amnon to do anything to her.**

Verse one says that Amnon was in love with her but here in verse two we find out that it was a romantic infatuation.

**<sup>3</sup> But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother; and Jonadab was a very clever man.**

Jonadab was the son of David's brother Shimeah. Shimeah was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Jesse.

See 1Chr. 2:13

**<sup>13</sup> and Jesse fathered Eliab his firstborn, then Abinadab, the second, Shimea, the third, <sup>14</sup> Nethanel, the fourth, Raddai, the fifth, <sup>15</sup> Ozem, the sixth, and David, the seventh.**

A friend would not advise a friend on how to rape his half-sister. He became an accessory in the rape of Tamar.

**<sup>4</sup> And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, so depressed morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" So Amnon said to him, "I am in love with Tamar, the sister of my brother Absalom."**

It is clear from the question to Amnon that Jonadab was a very clever man (in an evil way) because a clever man (in a good way) would have considered how this situation could go wrong and endanger the life of Amnon and destroy the future well-being of Tamar.

**<sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please have my sister Tamar come and make me a couple of pastries in my sight, so that I may eat from her hand."**

Is anyone surprised that David was fooled by this ploy?

How would food, presented by Tamar, make Amnon feel better?

Why ask for Tamar rather than a servant who would be readily available?

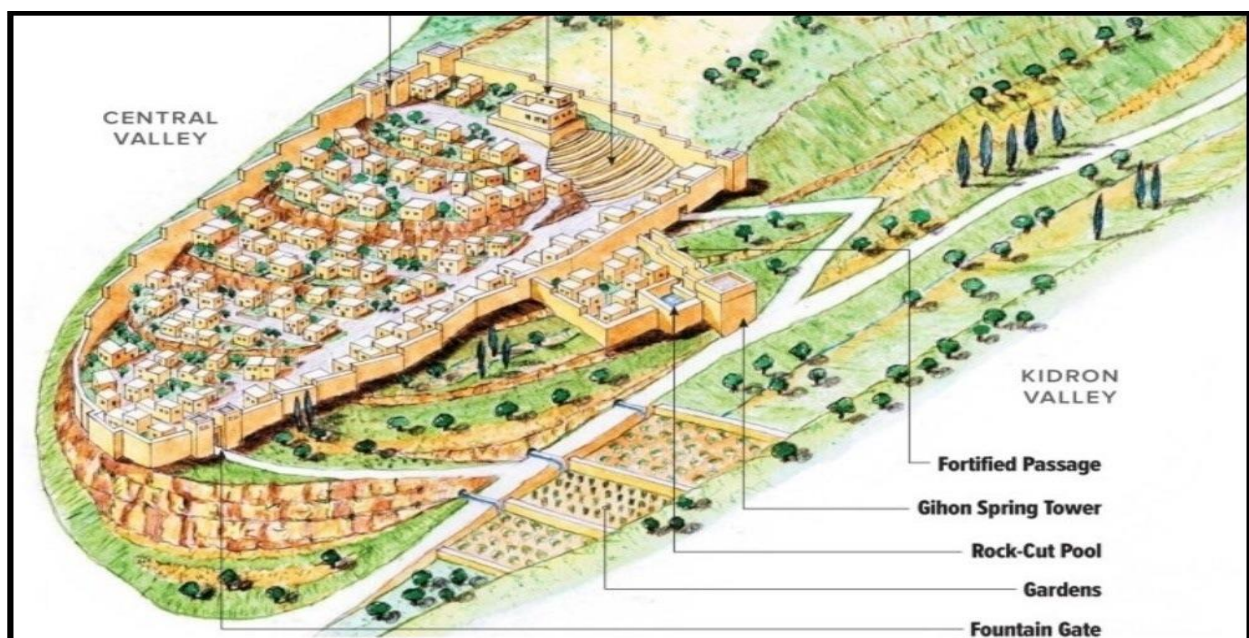
Verses 7 - 14

<sup>7</sup> Then David sent a messenger to the house for Tamar, saying, “Go now to your brother Amnon’s house, and prepare food for him.” <sup>8</sup> So Tamar went to her brother Amnon’s house, and he was lying *in bed*. And she took dough, kneaded *it*, made pastries in his sight, and baked the pastries. <sup>9</sup> Then she took the tray and served *them* to him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, “Have everyone leave me.” So everyone left him. <sup>10</sup> Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food into the bedroom, so that I may eat from your hand.” So Tamar took the pastries which she had made and brought them into the bedroom to her brother Amnon. <sup>11</sup> When she brought *them* to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, “Come, sleep with me, my sister.” <sup>12</sup> But she said to him, “No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this disgraceful sin! <sup>13</sup> As for me, where could I get rid of my shame? And as for you, you will be like one of the fools in Israel. Now then, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.” <sup>14</sup> However, he would not listen to her; since he was stronger than she, he violated her and slept with her.

<sup>7</sup> Then David sent a messenger to the house for Tamar, saying, “Go now to your brother Amnon’s house, and prepare food for him.”

Each of the king's wives and her children lived in separate houses within the palace grounds.

See Pic 1310



**<sup>11</sup> When she brought *them* to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, “Come, sleep with me, my sister.”**

If Amnon wanted Tamar to sleep with him perhaps he shouldn't have reminded her that she was his sister.

**<sup>12</sup> But she said to him, “No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this disgraceful sin!”**

This standard of conduct went back to at least the time of Jacob so it had been the common law of the land for 750 years (1739 to 990 BC).

See Genesis 34:7

**<sup>7</sup> Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *about it*; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by sleeping with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.**

**<sup>13</sup> As for me, where could I get rid of my shame? And as for you, you will be like one of the fools in Israel. Now then, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.”**

When it appeared that she would be raped Tamar tried to find a way out of this awful situation. Her arguments were logical and forceful, but it had no impact on Amnon

Verses 15 - 19

**<sup>15</sup> Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred; indeed, the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Get up, go *away!*” <sup>16</sup> But she said to him, “No, because this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you have done to me!” Yet he would not listen to her. <sup>17</sup> Then he called his young man who attended him and said, “Now throw this woman out of my *presence*, and lock the door behind her!” <sup>18</sup> Now she had on a long-sleeved garment; for this is how the virgin daughters of the king dressed themselves in robes. Then his attendant took her out and locked the door behind her. <sup>19</sup> Tamar took ashes *and put them* on her head, and tore her long-sleeved garment which was on her; and she put her hand on her head and went *on her way*, crying out as she went.**

**<sup>15</sup> Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred; indeed, the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Get up, go *away!*”**

It's hard to know without more detail but this sounds like a mental health condition called Dissociative Identity Disorder (Multiple Personality Disorder). When someone has DID, they have two or more separate personalities that control their behavior at different times. This does not excuse his behavior but there may be more going on here than just being immature and acting on his lustful thoughts.

**<sup>16</sup> But she said to him, “No, because this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you have done to me!” Yet he would not listen to her.**

There was a law that governed a case like this.

See Deut. 22:28 – 29

**<sup>28</sup> “If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and he seizes her and has sexual relations with her, and they are discovered, <sup>29</sup> then the man who had sexual relations with her shall give the girl’s father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall become his wife, because he has violated her; he is not allowed to divorce her all his days.”**

However, sexual relations with a sister or half-sister were forbidden and there was a severe punishment for either crime.

See Leviticus 18:9

**<sup>9</sup> As for the nakedness of your sister, *either your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether born in the household or born outside the household, you shall not uncover their nakedness.***

The punishment for that was to be cut off from their people

Leviticus 18:29

**<sup>29</sup> For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people.**

In many cases, being cut off from their people meant being stoned to death.

**<sup>18</sup> Now she had on a long-sleeved garment; for this is how the virgin daughters of the king dressed themselves in robes.**

This is the same word that is used in Genesis 37:3, where it is translated a coat of many colors.

**<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his *other* sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a multicolored tunic.**

In both cases, it was a mark of high favor and distinction.

**<sup>19</sup> Tamar took ashes and put them on her head, and tore her long-sleeved garment which was on her; and she put her hand on her head and went *on her way*, crying out as she went.**

Placing ashes on her head and tearing the garment was an expression of her extreme sorrow and humiliation.

Verses 20 - 22

**<sup>20</sup> Then Absalom her brother said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now keep silent, my sister, he is your brother; do not take this matter to heart.” So Tamar remained and was isolated in her brother Absalom’s house.**

**<sup>21</sup> Now when King David heard about all these matters, he became very angry.**

**<sup>22</sup> But Absalom did not speak with Amnon either good or bad; for Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar.**

**<sup>20</sup> Then Absalom her brother said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now keep silent, my sister, he is your brother; do not take this matter to heart.” So Tamar remained and was isolated in her brother Absalom’s house.**

Absalom probably knew that Amnon was interested in his sister but didn't think Amnon would do anything as foolish as this. But when he saw his sister he knew what had happened, and who had done it.

It's sad that the innocent party has to suffer, and in this case she was a beautiful young woman of a royal family that now had to isolate herself.

**<sup>21</sup> Now when King David heard about all these matters, he became very angry.**

Did David do anything about this injustice? Did he consider enforcing the punishment that was written in the Law? No one seems to even acknowledge the law concerning this matter.

**<sup>22</sup> But Absalom did not speak with Amnon either good or bad; for Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar.**

If the law had been followed, the matter could have been resolved. But when justice is set aside people will often take matters into their own hands.

Verses 23 - 29

**<sup>23</sup> Now it came about after two full years that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons to *celebrate*. <sup>24</sup> And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold now, your servant has sheepshearers; may the king and his servants please go with your servant." <sup>25</sup> But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, we should not all go, so that we will not be a burden to you." Though he urged him, he would not go; but he blessed him. <sup>26</sup> Then Absalom said, "If not, please have my brother Amnon go with us." But the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" <sup>27</sup> Nevertheless Absalom urged him, so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. <sup>28</sup> Then Absalom commanded his servants, saying, "See now, when Amnon's heart is cheerful with wine, and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then put him to death. Do not fear; have I not commanded you myself? Be courageous and be valiant." <sup>29</sup> And the servants of Absalom did to Amnon just as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons got up and each mounted his mule and fled.**

**<sup>23</sup> Now it came about after two full years that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons to *celebrate*.**

Absalom, being very shrewd, gave Amnon time to believe he was safe in his presence.

Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-Hazor

See Map 1315



Baal-Hazor is about twelve miles north of Jerusalem

**<sup>26</sup> Then Absalom said, “If not, please have my brother Amnon go with us.” But the king said to him, “Why should he go with you?”**

David may have had some apprehension about Absalom’s motives and the fact that he never got a straightforward answer from Absalom concerning his question should have been a clear warning that something was awry here.

**<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless Absalom urged him, so he let Amnon and all the king’s sons go with him.**

By inviting all the family, it was less likely that Amnon would smell a setup and this may have been why David relented in his objection about Amnon going to the feast.



**<sup>28</sup> Then Absalom commanded his servants, saying, “See now, when Amnon’s heart is cheerful with wine, and I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon,’ then put him to death. Do not fear; have I not commanded you myself? Be courageous and be valiant.” <sup>29</sup> And the servants of Absalom did to Amnon just as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king’s sons got up and each mounted his mule and fled.**

We are not told who the servants of Absalom were but they killed Amnon as their master had commanded.

The other brothers may have feared this was a coup and left quickly not wanting to be part of a rebellion.

Verses 30 - 33

**<sup>30</sup> Now it was while they were on the way that the report came to David, saying, “Absalom has struck and killed all the king’s sons, and not one of them is left.”**

**<sup>31</sup> Then the king stood up, tore his clothes, and lay on the ground; and all his servants were standing by with clothes torn. <sup>32</sup> And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David’s brother, responded, “Let my lord not assume that they have put to death all the young men, the king’s sons, for only Amnon is dead; because this has been set up by the intent of Absalom since the day that he violated his sister Tamar. <sup>33</sup> So now, may my lord the king not take the report to heart, claiming, ‘all the king’s sons are dead’; but only Amnon is dead.”**

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It turned out that this news about David’s son was not true but it was believable because it was not uncommon in those days for a son to kill all of his brothers in order that he might ascend to the kingship.

Also David might very well have expected that this was God’s judgment for his sin with Bathsheba. The words of Nathan may have come to mind when he heard this news.

See 2 Samuel 12:11

**<sup>11</sup> This is what the Lord says: ‘Behold, I am going to raise up evil against you from your own household;**

<sup>32</sup> And **Jonadab**, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, responded, "Let my lord not assume that they have put to death all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead; because this has been set up by the intent of Absalom since the day that he violated his sister Tamar. <sup>33</sup> So now, may my lord the king not take the report to heart, claiming, 'all the king's sons are dead'; but only Amnon is dead."

In verse 3 we found out that Jonadab was a friend (and in this case an advisor) of Amnon and it appears that this "clever man" may have been a collaborator with Absalom in the murder of Amnon.

Verses 34 - 36

<sup>34</sup> Now Absalom had fled. And the young man who was the watchman raised his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming from the road behind him by the side of the mountain. <sup>35</sup> And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come; so it has happened according to your servant's word." <sup>36</sup> As soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and raised their voices and wept; and the king and all his servants also wept very profusely.

<sup>36</sup> As soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and raised their voices and wept; and the king and all his servants also wept very profusely.

The loss of a family member is a sad event even when the deceased has committed a terrible crime against a beloved sister in the family. This had to be a time of mixed emotions for some family members and the general public might have wondered why they were grieving for a man that had committed this kind of crime.

Verses 37 - 39

<sup>37</sup> Now Absalom had fled and gone to Talmai the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. And *David* mourned for his son every day. <sup>38</sup> So Absalom had fled and gone to Geshur, and was there for three years.

<sup>37</sup> Now Absalom had fled and gone to Talmai the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur.

This was the father-in-law of Absalom.

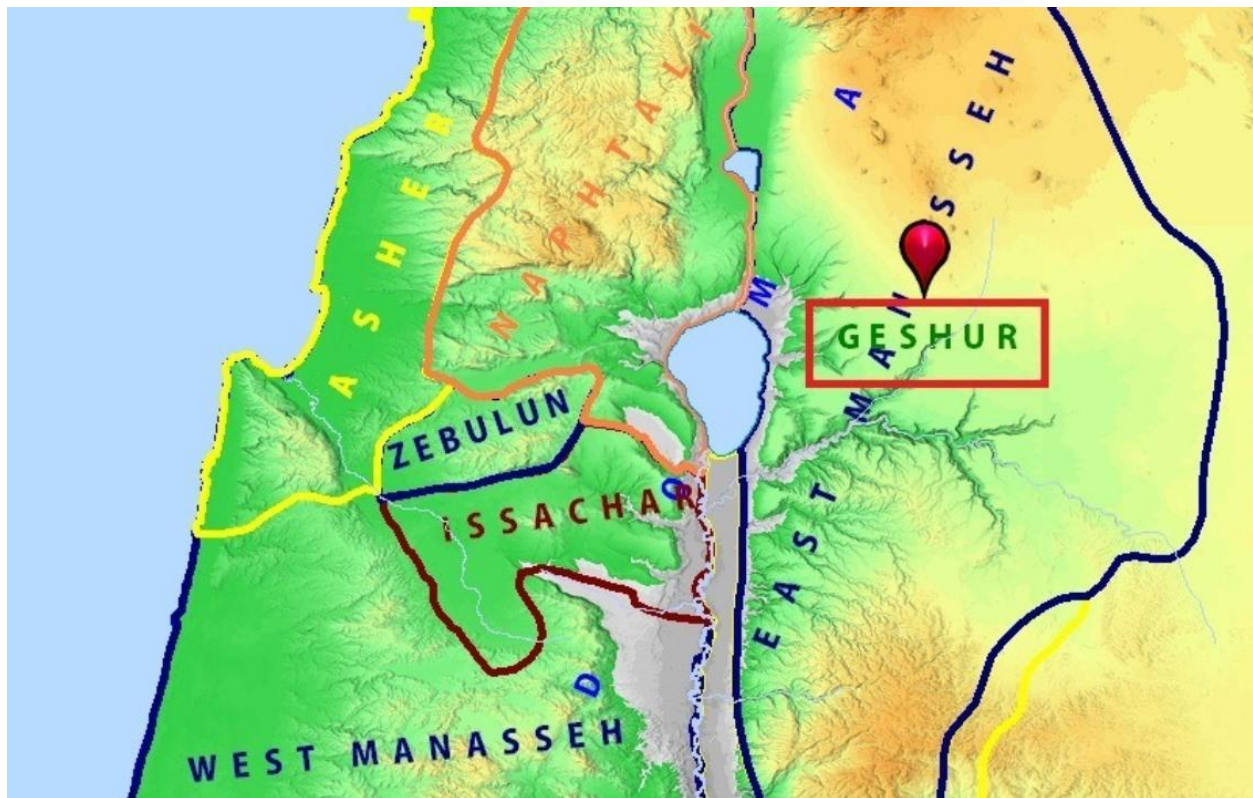
See pic 1320

These sons were born to David in Hebron.

Num.	Child	Mother	Background
1	Amnon	Ahinoam	the Jezreelitess
2	Chileab	Abigail	the widow of Nabal the Carmelite
3	Absalom	Maacah	the daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur
4	Adonijah	Haggith	?
5	Shephatiah	Abital	?
6	Ithream	Eglah	?

This area is east of the Sea of Galilee.

See pic 1325



Verse 39

**<sup>39</sup> And *the heart of* King David longed to go out to Absalom; for he was comforted regarding Amnon, since he was dead.**

In time David once more longed for the return of Absalom.