

I. The story.

- A. David is done with Absalom.
- B. Joab plots to get David to send for Absalom, recruits the crafty woman of Tekoa.
- C. The woman tells her story.
- D. David sends for Absalom – but won't *see* Absalom.
- E. Absalom's handsomeness and family.
- F. Absalom gets Joab's attention by burning his field.
- G. Joab brings Absalom to the king, who finally receives him.

II. The puzzle of David's attitude toward Absalom (see 13:39).

III. The puzzle of Joab's attitude toward Absalom.

IV. The puzzle of the “wise” woman's speech (14:2 with 13:3; see 2 Timothy 3:13).

V. The puzzle of David's “judgment”.

- A. Absalom's murder is like Cain's murder – and even more deliberate and long-planned.
- B. For whatever reason he errs on the side of leniency.

VI. The puzzle of handsome Absalom.

- A. The most handsome man in Israel (see 1 Samuel 9:2; 16:6-7).
- B. A false Nazirite (see Numbers 6:1-21).
- C. Family (see 1 Samuel 14:49-51; 2 Samuel 3:1-5; 5:13).

VII. The clue of the burning field.