

In this context, “vyemba” refers to a spear.

When Absalom, the son of King David, rebelled against his father, causing a massive war in Israel, we learn that during the battle, while riding his mule, Absalom passed under a tree and got caught by his hair. His mule kept going, but Absalom was left hanging, unable to free himself. Some of David’s soldiers saw him and were afraid to kill him, remembering David’s oath that no one should harm Absalom. However, Joab, the commander of David’s army, disregarded that command and went ahead, thrusting three spears into Absalom’s heart. His soldiers then finished the job.

2 Samuel 18:14 says, “Then Joab said, ‘I can’t wait around like this with you.’ He took three spears in his hand and thrust them into Absalom’s heart while he was still alive, hanging in the oak tree.

15 “Ten of Joab’s armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him, and killed him.

So, Joab pierced Absalom with three spears in his chest.

## **What can we learn from this story?**

David’s love for his son was like God’s love for us. Even though Absalom greatly dishonored his father—by sleeping with his father’s wives and rebelling against his kingdom—David’s heart still longed for Absalom to repent. But Absalom refused to change, and as a result, he was destroyed by the armies because of his ongoing rebellion. Had he been obedient, his father would have protected him.

When we rebel against God, we separate ourselves from His mercy, as Jonah says in Jonah 2:8: “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

Never rebel against God, my friend. Walk in His ways, because rebellion leads to death. If you’re attacked by the enemy, the devil, God won’t be able to protect you. You will perish spiritually, just as Absalom did—pierced by those spiritual spears.

There is no safety outside of Christ. Return to God by following Jesus. Repent of your sins today, be baptized, and receive forgiveness. Live a life of grace within His love every day. Stop rebelling; His grace won’t always be there to protect you from the traps the enemy sets to destroy you.

What does “Vyemba” mean, as we see in 2 Samuel 18:14?

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