

1 Samuel 25:1-44 **Death of Samuel – David, Nabal, Abigail – David's wives**

Death of Samuel

¹ Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

David and Nabal

² Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³ The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb.

⁴ When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, ⁵ David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. ⁶ And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!' ⁷ Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. ⁸ Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David."

⁹ So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited.

¹⁰ Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. ¹¹ Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

¹² So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words. ¹³ Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

David & Abigail

¹⁴ Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them. ¹⁵ But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. ¹⁶ They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷ Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him."

¹⁸ Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. ¹⁹ And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰ So it was, as she rode on the donkey,

that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.

21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. 22 May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

23 Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. 24 So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant. 25 Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. 26 Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, since the Lord has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. 27 And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. 28 Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the Lord, and evil is not found in you throughout your days. 29 Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling. 30 And it shall come to pass, when the Lord has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, 31 that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."

32 Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand. 34 For indeed, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!" 35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

36 Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light. 37 So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone. 38 Then it happened, after about ten days, that the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.

39 So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the Lord has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head."

And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife. 40 When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."

41 Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." 42 So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.

David's first three Wives

43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives.

44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

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Facts Revealed:

Death of Samuel

- ✧ Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran. [1 Samuel 25:1]
- ◇ This brief reference to the death of Samuel seems insignificant for such a notable individual whose life had so much impact on the nation of Israel.
- ◇ It appears that David was among the Israelites who attended the Burial of Samuel at his home in Ramah North West of Jerusalem which was too near Saul's location in Gibeah of Saul and placed David in danger.
- ◇ David was hiding in the caves of En Gedi overlooking the Dead Sea before the funeral of Samuel.
- ◇ After the funeral, David went to the Wilderness of Paran where the Israelites spent 40 years after leaving Egypt and was included in the most southern territory of Judah.

David and Nabal [1 Samuel 25:2-13]

- ✧ Carmel of Judah is located about 9 miles South East of Hebron, the home of Nabal and Abigail.
- ◇ Nabal was a descendant of Caleb.
- ◇ Nabal (foolish) was a very rich man, having 3,000 sheep 1,000 goats.
- ◇ Abigail (cause of joy, father's joy, source of joy) was the beautiful wife of Nabal.
- ✧ When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep, he sent ten young men to request support for David and his men in return for the assistance they had rendered by guarding the sheep in the wilderness.
- ✧ Nabal outrightly refused to send aid.
- ✧ Nabal's refusal angered David who was leading 600 armed men, so David took 400 of his men armed to demand assistance from Nabal.
- ✧ David's Response was: "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

David & Abigail [1 Samuel 25:14-42]

- ✧ One of Nabal's young men told Abigail about the incident and informed her that David and his men had been a wall of security around them in the wilderness, and that there was danger afoot since Nabal reviled David's men.
- ✧ Abigail quickly gathered supplies to take to David without telling her husband.
- ✧ When Abigail saw David, she dismounted and bowed down to the ground before David, and pleaded that David accept the supplies she brought and not take revenge for himself against Nabal.

- ✧ Abigail demonstrated her confidence in the Lord and the future for David by saying, "For Yahweh (The Lord) will certainly make for adoney (my lord) an enduring house, because adoney (my lord) fights the battles of Yahweh (the Lord), and evil is not found in you throughout your days."
- ✧ Abigail also acknowledged that they all knew that David remained righteous even though Saul was continually seeking David's life, but God has preserved David's life and appointed David to be ruler over Israel. Therefore Abigail advised that David withhold himself from bloodshed so there will be no guilt in this matter when David is king.
- ✧ Abigail also asked that David would remember her when the Lord has dealt well with him.
- ✧ David blessed Abigail for her insight and action, and accepted her gift and advise.
- ✧ Abigail returned home and found Nabal very drunk so she told him nothing until the next morning when the wine had gone from him.
- ✧ When Nabal heard about the events of the day before, his heart died within him and he froze like a stone in fear.
- ✧ Ten days later Yahweh struck Nabal and he died.
- ✧ So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the Lord has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head."
- ✧ David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife. When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."
- ✧ Abigail accepted the proposal and became David's wife.

David's first three Wives [1 Samuel 25:43-44]

- ✧ After his marriage to Abigail of Carmel, David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel as his wife, so they were both David's wives. When David became a fugitive, Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish from Gallim.