# SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON Lessons In Faith









# **THE DEATH OF SAMUEL**



1 Samuel 25 "<sup>1</sup>And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah."







Samuel is one of the few characters in the Bible of whom nothing is recorded about his failures. We are told of his faithfulness and devotion to God from his childhood until his death. The most negative thing that can be said about Samuel is that his two sons were wicked. When Samuel made them judges they took bribes and perverted judgment. It was partly because of their behavior that the people desired a king. Samuel's sons were not fit to rule after him. Ramah was an important place for Samuel:

He was born in a house at Ramah, 1 Samuel 1:19. He judged from Ramah and worshiped there, 1 Samuel 7:17. He was buried in his house at Ramah, 1 Samuel 25:1.





# ABIGAIL



"<sup>1</sup>... David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran. <sup>2</sup>And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel."

Wilderness of Paran—





"<sup>3</sup>Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish [harsh, NKJV] and evil [badly behaved, ESV] in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb." David sent 10 men to ask Nabal for aid. He was specific in what he wanted his men to say. It was a kind speech, a respectful one, and it informed Nabal of the favor he had recently shown Nabal's shepherds.



<sup>"7</sup>And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. <sup>8</sup>Ask thy young men, and they will show thee."



But Nabal refused to help David and his men.

His answer was discourteous and even offensive. He was a very foolish man, in fact the meaning of his name is "foolish."





When David's men told him Nabal's answer he was ready to fight. He told 400 of his 600 men to put on their swords! But one of Nabal's shepherds told Abigail, Nabal's wife, what was happening, and she took food to David and his men.

# Abigail gave David--

200 loaves of bread2 bottles of wine5 sheep4 measures of corn100 clusters of raisins200 cakes of figs

Abigail rode along with the servants and mules packed with food to meet David and his men. Her husband didn't know what she was doing. She dismounted when she met David and his men, bowed before him, and attempted to atone for Nabal's faults.



<sup>"23</sup>And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, <sup>24</sup>And fell at his feet, and said,

Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

<sup>25</sup>Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send."



She took the blame of the illtreatment of David's messengers.

She excused her husband by blaming it on his natural weakness rather than spitefulness.

Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

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"<sup>26</sup>Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

<sup>27</sup>And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

<sup>28</sup>I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days."



"<sup>26</sup>Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thing anomias and they that seek She applauded David for  $^{27}Ar$ thine the good services he had hand done against the common lord, let if enemies of his country, and men that praised David's character. 28T ss of thine hand for the LORD will certainly may my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been

found in thee all thy days."



"<sup>29</sup>Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

<sup>30</sup>And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

<sup>31</sup>That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid."



"<sup>29</sup>Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

<sup>30</sup>A She addressed his present the trouble, and spoke of her belief acc and confidence in David. (She ath spo referred to a sling shot, David's we app preferred weapon).

<sup>31</sup>That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid."



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"<sup>32</sup>And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: <sup>33</sup>And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand."



"<sup>34</sup>For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, 'surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal [NKJV]."



"<sup>35</sup>So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person."



"<sup>36</sup>And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light."





"<sup>37</sup>But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. <sup>38</sup>And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died."



When David heard the news of Nabal's death he gave God thanks—

That the Lord had kept him from killing Nabal.

That Nabal died a natural death.

**That** the Lord had vindicated David's honor and not allowed him to go unpunished who had been abusive to him.

**That** he had thereby encouraged him and all others to commit their cause to God.

**That** they were assured that in His own time God will rectify their wrongs if they sit still and leave the matter to Him.



"<sup>39</sup>And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said,

Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head.

AndDavidsentandcommunedwithAbigail, totake her to him to wife."



"<sup>40</sup>And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. <sup>41</sup>And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said,

> Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

<sup>42</sup>And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife."



"<sup>43</sup>David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives. <sup>44</sup>But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim."



# **MULTIPLE WIVES**

David was carried away by the corrupt custom of those times, but from the beginning it was not so, nor is it so now under the New Testament law.

His first wife was Michal, Saul's daughter, the wife of his youth. Saul had given her to another to show his hatred of David and to disown the relation of a father-in-law to him.

Another wife of David's was Ahinoam of Jezreel. It may be that he married her before Abigail for she is named first in I Samuel 27:3.

