

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25

Verse 1

**Then Samuel died; and all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him at his house in Ramah. And David set out and went down to the wilderness of Paran.**

Samuel was probably buried in the garden or the courtyard of his residence. We see something similar concerning King Manasseh in 642 BC.

See 2 Kings 21:18

**18 And Manasseh lay down with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza, and his son Amon became king in his place.**

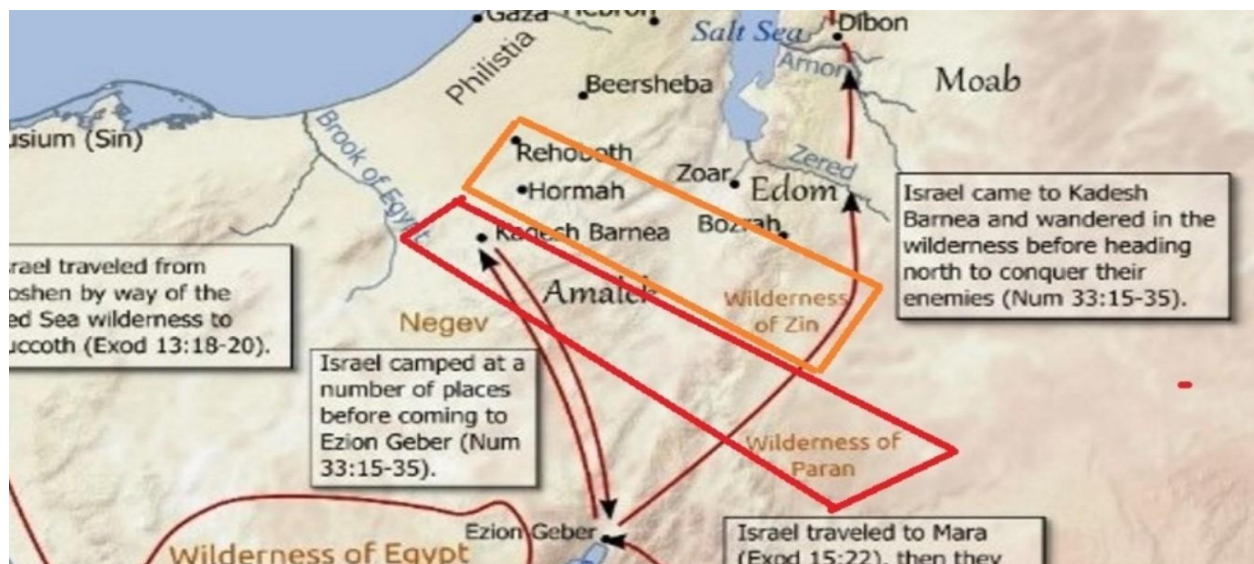
Some Bible versions say they buried him in his house. However, this was also true with King Manasseh.

See 2 Chronicles 33:20

**20 So Manasseh lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. And his son Amon became king in his place.**

David decided to move farther south to the wilderness of Paran.

See Map 2505



This wilderness of Paran (in red) spanned an area from the city of Kadesh Barnea south east to an area that is northeast of the Red Sea.

Verses 2 - 4

<sup>2</sup> **Now *there was* a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel <sup>3</sup> (now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in *his* dealings, and he was a Calebite), <sup>4</sup> that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.**

<sup>2</sup> **Now *there was* a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats.**

See Map 2510



Nabal is introduced here, as a very rich man whose residence was in Maon but his business was in Carmel.

**<sup>3</sup> (now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in his dealings, and he was a Calebite), <sup>4</sup> that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.**

Nabal means obstinate fool but Abigail means the joy of her father. This meaning was probably assigned to him by his contemporaries because what parent would name their son obstinate fool.

Nabal had inherited the estate of his ancestor Caleb but he did not have his character.

Verses 5 – 8

**<sup>5</sup> So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, “Go up to Carmel and visit Nabal, and greet him in my name; <sup>6</sup> and this is what you shall say: ‘Have a long life, peace to you, and peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!’ <sup>7</sup> Now then, I have heard that you have shearers. Now, your shepherds have been with us; we have not harmed them, nor has anything of theirs gone missing all the days they were in Carmel. <sup>8</sup> Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let *my* young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.”**

**<sup>5</sup> So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, “Go up to Carmel and visit Nabal, and greet him in my name.**

**<sup>7</sup> Now then, I have heard that you have shearers. Now, your shepherds have been with us; we have not harmed them, nor has anything of theirs gone missing all the days they were in Carmel.**

David was a national hero for killing Goliath and Nabal should have shown him some gratitude since his wealth was made possible because Israel had gained its freedom from the Philistines who would have robbed the land of its grain & flocks and put a heavy tax on men like Nabal. In addition to all of this David and his men had been a bulwark against anyone trying to steal his sheep.

**<sup>8</sup> Therefore let *my* young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.”**

David was not demanding an unfair levee or tax on Nabal’s business but a freewill offering to David & his men on a festive Day.

Verses 9 - 13

**<sup>9</sup> When David’s young men came, they spoke to Nabal in accordance with all these words in David’s name; then they waited. <sup>10</sup> But Nabal answered David’s servants and said, “Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master. <sup>11</sup> Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?” <sup>12</sup> So David’s young men made their way back and returned; and they came and informed him in accordance with all these words. <sup>13</sup> Then David said to his men, “Each *of you* strap on his sword.” So each man strapped on his sword. And David also strapped on his sword, and about four hundred men went up behind David, while two hundred stayed with the baggage.**

**<sup>10</sup> But Nabal answered David’s servants and said, “Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master.”**

Nabal suggests that David was a disloyal servant to the king but we know just the opposite was true. The king was being disloyal to David and he even admitted it.

**<sup>11</sup> Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?”**

The answer to that question is NO. Nabal should give his workers there due but he should also give a little extra from his profit to the men of David.

There is a well-known drug store that cut the wages of their Assistant managers by 20% and then gave the president of the company a 30 million dollar bonus. This was justified by saying the assistant managers were over paid. Really, who was over paid? But God is not blind and their company stock dropped from 60 to 30 dollars per share. Do you think they will ever see the connection?

**<sup>13</sup> Then David said to his men, “Each of you strap on his sword.” So each man strapped on his sword. And David also strapped on his sword, and about four hundred men went up behind David, while two hundred stayed with the baggage.**

While David was justified in being angry it was wrong (sinful) for him to think about murdering Nabal. Vengeance is mine says the Lord.

Verses 14 - 17

**<sup>14</sup> Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, saying, “Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, and he spoke to them in anger. <sup>15</sup> Yet the men were very good to us, and we were not harmed, nor did anything go missing as long as we went with them, while we were in the fields. <sup>16</sup> They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep. <sup>17</sup> Now then, be aware and consider what you should do, because harm is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that no one can speak to him.”**

**<sup>16</sup> They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep.**

Shepherds in the open country were in constant danger from marauders and David's army of 600 men was a shield for Nabal's flocks. This happened because David was a man of character and he kept this band of discontented men under control.

**<sup>17</sup> Now then, be aware and consider what you should do, because harm is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that no one can speak to him.”**

Nabal's employees knew they could approach his wife, so they appealed to Abigail.

Abigail isn't offended by the employee's statement that her husband is a worthless man because she knew it was an undeniable fact. However, it would have been wise to be a bit more diplomatic.

The employees of Nabal were well aware of the benefits that they had received from having David's men around but Nabal (the head of this company) can't see it or refuses to acknowledge it. Some companies want all the benefits of the American system but don't want to pay their share of the taxes to support it.

Verses 18 - 22

**<sup>18</sup> Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread and two jugs of wine, and five sheep *already* prepared and five measures of roasted grain, and a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and she loaded *them* on donkeys. <sup>19</sup> Then she said to her young men, “Go on ahead of me; behold, I am coming after you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. <sup>20</sup> And it happened as she was riding on her donkey and coming down by the hidden part of the mountain, that behold, David and his men were coming down toward her; so she met them. <sup>21</sup> Now David had said, “It is certainly for nothing that I have guarded everything that this *man* has in the wilderness, so that nothing has gone missing of all that belonged to him! For he has returned me evil for good. <sup>22</sup> May God do so to the enemies of David, and more so, if by morning I leave alive *as much as one male of any who belong to him.*”**

**<sup>18</sup> Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread and two jugs of wine, and five sheep *already* prepared and five measures of roasted grain, and a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and she loaded *them* on donkeys.**

Abigail knew she better act quickly because if she had waited until David arrived, it would have been too late.

**<sup>21</sup> Now David had said, “It is certainly for nothing that I have guarded everything that this *man* has in the wilderness, so that nothing has gone missing of all that belonged to him! For he has returned me evil for good. <sup>22</sup> May God do so to the enemies of David, and more so, if by morning I leave alive *as much as one male of any who belong to him.*”**

David is right that Nabal had done him wrong but his response is way out of bounds.

God had commanded an eye for an eye. Some people think this is midlevel thinking but that is not the case. This was a way of saying that a court's response to a crime or some injustice should be measured or fit the crime. A person should not be put to death for slapping someone in the face.

The punishment should fit the crime. This is a founding principle of our modern day criminal justice system.

Nor should David kill Nabal for withholding a well-earned gift.

Verses 23 - 25

**<sup>23</sup> When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face in front of David and bowed herself to the ground. <sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said, “On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your slave speak to you, and listen to the words of your slave.**

**<sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said, “On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your slave speak to you, and listen to the words of your slave.**

This was a very Christ like act. Abigail took on herself the guilt of her husband hoping to save his life in spite of Nabal's unworthiness.

**<sup>25</sup> Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and stupidity is with him; but I your slave did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.**

Her argument was based on logic. Nabal was not important enough for David to take vengeance on him. David used the same argument with Saul when he argued that Saul was trying to kill a flea.

Verses 26 - 31

**<sup>26</sup> “Now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, since the Lord has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then, may your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be like Nabal. <sup>27</sup> And now let this gift which your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord. <sup>28</sup> Please forgive the offense of your slave; for the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the Lord, and evil will not be found in you all your days. <sup>29</sup> Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling. <sup>30</sup> And when the Lord does for my lord in accordance with all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel, <sup>31</sup> this will not become an obstacle to you, or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord’s having avenged himself. When the Lord deals well with my lord, then remember your slave.”**



<sup>26</sup> **“Now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, since the Lord has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then, may your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be like Nabal.**

David had not forgiven anyone yet, so how did Abigail know that the Lord had restrained David from shedding blood?

See verse 20

<sup>20</sup> **And it happened as she was riding on her donkey and coming down by the hidden part of the mountain, that behold, David and his men were coming down toward her; so she met them.**

The servant did his part by informing Abigail, she did her part by acting quickly to rectify the situation and God worked out the timing so David met Abigail before he killed Nabal and all of his men.

<sup>28</sup> **Please forgive the offense of your slave; for the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the Lord, and evil will not be found in you all your days.**

Abigail recognized how God was using David and used that fact to gently remind David that a person doing God’s work should not do any evil.

<sup>29</sup> **Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling.**

We have been told that this woman is intelligent and it shows in her ability to craft a poetic answer to David. She uses David’s triumph over Goliath with a sling to say that the Lord will take care of David’s enemies (he doesn’t need to harm Nabal).

<sup>30</sup> **And when the Lord does for my lord in accordance with all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel,**

Abigail recognized that David would rise to the throne of Israel. Even though none of the visible evidence points to this being true, at this point in time, her faith tells her that it will happen.



<sup>31</sup> **this will not become an obstacle to you, or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord's having avenged himself. When the Lord deals well with my lord, then remember your slave."**

Vengeance is contrary to God's law.

See Deut. 32:35

**Vengeance is Mine, and retribution;  
In *due* time their foot will slip.  
For the day of their disaster is near,  
And the impending things are hurrying to them.'**

Also, from a political perspective it would have been foolish because in the beginning only Judah backed David in his claim to the throne. Killing this wealthy man from Judah for not donating to the cause could have prevented even Judah from backing him.

Verses 32 - 34

<sup>32</sup> **Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, <sup>33</sup> and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand. <sup>34</sup> Nevertheless, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, there certainly would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light *as much as one male.*" <sup>35</sup> So David accepted from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request."**

<sup>32</sup> **Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand. <sup>34</sup> Nevertheless, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, there certainly would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light *as much as one male.*"**

David realized that God had sent Abigail to him so that David would not commit this sin. But he also let her know that if she had delayed just a little bit David would have executed vengeance on Nabal and his men.

Isn't it interesting that David refused to retaliate against King Saul for his attempts to kill him but he was ready to kill Nabal for refusing to give him a gift?

Verses 36 - 38

**<sup>36</sup> Then Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, he was having a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was cheerful within him, for he was very drunk; so she did not tell him anything at all until the morning light. <sup>37</sup> But in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him so that he became *like a stone*. <sup>38</sup> About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died.**

When Nabal heard what David had planned for him and his men he may have suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed. 10 days later the Lord ended his life.

Verses 39 – 42

**<sup>39</sup> When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of the shame inflicted on me by the hand of Nabal, and has kept back His servant from evil. The Lord has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head.” Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife. <sup>40</sup> When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you to take you to him as *his wife*.” <sup>41</sup> And she got up and bowed with her face to the ground, and said, “Behold, your slave is a servant to wash the feet of my lord's servants.” <sup>42</sup> Then Abigail got up quickly, and rode on a donkey, with her five female attendants who accompanied her; and she followed the messengers of David and became his wife.**

**<sup>40</sup> When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you to take you to him as *his wife*.”**

We don't know why David didn't come back to make the proposal himself but Abigail was willing to accept his offer of marriage.

**<sup>42</sup> Then Abigail got up quickly, and rode on a donkey, with her five female attendants who accompanied her; and she followed the messengers of David and became his wife.**

Abigail, an intelligent and beautiful woman, was freed from a worthless & stupid man (their words not mine) and married the future king of Israel. God knows how to bless people of faith.

Verses 43 - 44

<sup>43</sup> **David had also taken Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both became his wives.**

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

Ahinoam was from Jezreel whom David married after Saul gave Michal to Palti. Later when David had the power to do so, he took Michal back.

See 2 Samuel 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> **So David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, to whom I was betrothed for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines."** <sup>15</sup> **Ish-bosheth sent *men* and had her taken from *her* husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish.**

Before David becomes King of Judah he will have 6 wives.

How do 7 people become one flesh?

See Genesis 2:24

<sup>24</sup> **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**