

### *Samuel's Death*

25:1 <sup>a</sup>THEN Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and <sup>b</sup>mourned for him, and <sup>c</sup>buried him at his house in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the <sup>d</sup>wilderness of Paran.

### *Nabal and Abigail*

**2** Now *there was* a man in <sup>a</sup>Maon whose business was in <sup>b</sup>Carmel; and the man was very <sup>1</sup>rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while <sup>c</sup>he was shearing his sheep in Carmel **3** (now the man's name was Nabal, and his <sup>a</sup>wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was <sup>1</sup>intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in *his* dealings, and he was <sup>b</sup>a Calebite), **4** that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. **5** So David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, <sup>1</sup>visit Nabal and greet him in my name; **6** and thus you shall say, '<sup>1</sup>Have a long life, <sup>a</sup>peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. **7** 'And now I have heard <sup>a</sup>that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, <sup>b</sup>nor have they missed anything all the days 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 have come on <sup>a</sup>a <sup>1</sup>festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

**9** When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David's name; then they waited. **10** 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. **11** "Shall I then <sup>a</sup>take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men <sup>1</sup>whose origin I do not know?" **12** So David's young men retraced their way and went back; and they came and told him according to all these words. **13** And David said to his men, "Each *of you* gird on his sword." So each man girded on his sword. And David also girded on his sword, and about <sup>a</sup>four hundred men went up behind David while two hundred <sup>b</sup>stayed with the baggage.

**14** But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to <sup>1</sup><sup>a</sup>greet our master, and he scorned them. **15** "Yet the men were very good to us, and we were not <sup>a</sup>insulted, nor did we miss anything <sup>1</sup>as long as we went about with them, while we were in the fields. **16** "<sup>a</sup>They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep. **17** "Now therefore, know and <sup>1</sup>consider what you should do, for evil is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a <sup>2</sup>worthless man that no one can speak to him."

### *Abigail Intercedes*

**18** Then Abigail hurried and <sup>a</sup>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 clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded *them* on donkeys. **19** And she said to

her young men, <sup>a</sup>“Go on before me; behold, I am coming after you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. 20 And it came about 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. 21 Now David had said, “Surely in vain I have guarded all that this *man* has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has <sup>a</sup>returned me evil for good. 22 <sup>a</sup>“May God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, <sup>b</sup>if by morning I leave *as much as* one <sup>1</sup>male of any who belong to him.”

**23** When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face before David, <sup>a</sup>and bowed herself to the ground. 24 And she fell at his feet and said, “On me <sup>1</sup>alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak <sup>2</sup>to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant. 25 “Please do not let my lord <sup>1</sup>pay attention to this <sup>2</sup>worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. <sup>3</sup>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 restrained you from <sup>1</sup>shedding blood, and <sup>a</sup>from <sup>2</sup>avenging yourself by your own hand, now then <sup>b</sup>let your enemies, and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal. 27 “And now let <sup>a</sup>this <sup>1</sup>gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who <sup>2</sup>accompany my lord. 28 “Please forgive <sup>a</sup>the transgression of your maidservant; for <sup>b</sup>the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is <sup>c</sup>fighting the battles of the LORD, and <sup>d</sup>evil shall not be found in you all your days. 29 “And should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your <sup>1</sup>life, then the <sup>1</sup>life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; but the <sup>1</sup>lives of your enemies <sup>a</sup>He will sling out <sup>2</sup>as from the hollow of a sling. 30 “And it shall come about when the LORD shall do for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and <sup>a</sup>shall appoint you ruler over Israel, 31 that this will not <sup>1</sup>cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having <sup>2</sup>avenged himself. <sup>a</sup>When the LORD shall deal well with my lord, then remember your maidservant.”

**32** Then David said to Abigail, <sup>a</sup>“Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, 33 and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, <sup>a</sup>who have kept me this day from <sup>1</sup>bloodshed, and from <sup>2</sup>avenging myself by my own hand. 34 “Nevertheless, as the LORD God of Israel lives, <sup>a</sup>who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light *as much as* one <sup>1</sup>male.” 35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and he said to her, <sup>a</sup>“Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to <sup>1</sup>you and <sup>2</sup><sup>b</sup>granted your request.”

**36** Then Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, he was holding <sup>a</sup>a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal’s heart was merry within him, <sup>b</sup>for he was very drunk; so <sup>c</sup>she did not tell him anything <sup>1</sup>at all until the morning light. 37 But it came about in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, that his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him so that he became *as* a stone. 38 And about ten days later, it happened that <sup>a</sup>the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

### *David Marries Abigail*

**39** When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD, who has

<sup>a</sup>pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and <sup>b</sup>has kept back His servant from evil. The LORD has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head.” Then David sent <sup>1</sup> <sup>c</sup>a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife. 40 When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you, to take you as his wife.” 41 And she arose <sup>a</sup>and bowed with her face to the ground and said, “Behold, your maidservant is a maid <sup>b</sup>to wash the feet of my lord’s servants.” 42 Then <sup>a</sup>Abigail quickly arose, and rode on a donkey, with her five maidens who <sup>1</sup>attended her; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.

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

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

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<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 28:3

<sup>b</sup> Num. 20:29; Deut. 34:8

<sup>c</sup> 2 Kin. 21:18; 2 Chr. 33:20

<sup>d</sup> Gen. 21:21; Num. 10:12; 13:3

<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 23:24

<sup>b</sup> Josh. 15:55

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *great*

<sup>c</sup> Gen. 38:13; 2 Sam. 13:23

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 31:10

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *of good understanding*

<sup>b</sup> Josh. 15:13; 1 Sam. 30:14

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *go into*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *To life*

<sup>a</sup> 1 Chr. 12:18; Ps. 122:7; Luke 10:5

<sup>a</sup> 2 Sam. 13:23, 24

<sup>b</sup> 1 Sam. 25:15, 21

<sup>a</sup> Neh. 8:10-12; Esth. 9:19, 22

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *good*

<sup>a</sup> Judg. 9:28

<sup>a</sup> Judg. 8:6, 15

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *from where they are*

<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 23:13

<sup>b</sup> 1 Sam. 30:24

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *bless*

<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 13:10; 15:13

<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 25:7, 21

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *all the days*

<sup>a</sup> Ex. 14:22; Job 1:10

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *see*

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *son of Belial*

<sup>a</sup> 2 Sam. 16:1; 1 Chr. 12:40

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 32:16, 20

<sup>a</sup> Ps. 109:5; Prov. 17:13

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- <sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 3:17; 20:13  
<sup>b</sup> 1 Kin. 14:10  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *who urinates against the wall*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 20:41  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *even me*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *in your ears*  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *set his heart to*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *man of Belial*  
<sup>3</sup> I.e., Fool  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *coming in with blood*  
<sup>a</sup> Heb. 10:30  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *saving*  
<sup>b</sup> 2 Sam. 18:32  
<sup>a</sup> Gen. 33:11; 1 Sam. 30:26  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *blessing*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *walk at the feet of*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 25:24  
<sup>b</sup> 1 Sam. 22:14; 2 Sam. 7:11, 16  
<sup>c</sup> 1 Sam. 18:17  
<sup>d</sup> 1 Sam. 24:11; Ps. 7:3  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *soul*  
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<sup>a</sup> Jer. 10:18  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *in the midst*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 13:14  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *become staggering to you or a stumbling of the heart*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *saved*  
<sup>a</sup> Gen. 40:14; 1 Sam. 25:30  
<sup>a</sup> Ex. 18:10; 1 Kin. 1:48; Ps. 41:13; 72:18; 106:48; Luke 1:68  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 25:26  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *coming in with blood*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *saving*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 25:26  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *who urinates against the wall*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 20:42; 2 Kin. 5:19  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *your voice*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *lifted up your face*  
<sup>b</sup> Gen. 19:21  
<sup>a</sup> 2 Sam. 13:28  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 20:1; Is. 5:11; Hos. 4:11  
<sup>c</sup> 1 Sam. 25:19  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *small or large*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 26:10; 2 Sam. 6:7; Ps. 104:29  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 24:15; Prov. 22:23

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<sup>b</sup> 1 Sam. 25:26, 34

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *and spoke*

<sup>c</sup> Song 8:8

<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 25:23

<sup>b</sup> Mark 1:7

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 24:61-67

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *walked at her feet*

<sup>a</sup> Josh. 15:56

<sup>b</sup> 1 Sam. 27:3; 30:5

<sup>a</sup> 1 Sam. 18:27; 2 Sam. 3:14

<sup>b</sup> Is. 10:30

<sup>i</sup>*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.