

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 25

1 SAMUEL 25:1 - SAMUEL DIES

V. 1 - END OF AN ERA. SAMUEL WAS A FAITHFUL JUDGE, A HOLY PRIEST AND SPIRIT-FILLED PROPHET. HE WAS A FATHER TO ISRAEL BEFORE THEY HAD A KING AND A VOICE OF THE LORD IN THE LAND.

1 SAMUEL 25:2-8 - DAVID, NABAL & ABIGAIL

V. 2-3 - NABAL IS VERY WEALTHY. 3000 SHEEP, 1000 GOATS. "THE NAME NABAL MEANS "FOOLISH" OR "BOORISH" (SEE V. 25). IT APPEARS TO BE HIS REAL NAME, BUT SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE GIVEN A NAME WITH THAT MEANING, ITS ORIGIN MAY HAVE BEEN ANOTHER HEBREW WORD THAT IS NOW UNKNOWN. "CALEBITE" MAY MEAN A DESCENDANT OF CALEB, ONE OF THE SCOUTS WHO WAS WILLING TO ENTER CANAAN (NUM. 14:6—7) AND WHO WAS GIVEN THE LAND AROUND HEBRON (JOSH. 14:6—14). THUS IT WOULD MEAN THAT NABAL WAS PROMINENT BOTH BY WEALTH AND BY DESCENT. (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 SAM. 25:3)

DAVID SENDS 10 OF HIS MEN TO ASK NABAL FOR MATERIAL SUPPORT. DAVID'S MEN ARE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH WITH RESPECT AND KINDNESS AND TO NOTE THAT DAVID HAS NOT CAUSES NABAL ANY TROUBLE.

V. 8 - "FESTIVE DAY" - THE TIME OF THE SHEARING OF THE SHEEP WAS A TIME OF CELEBRATION. DAVID MENTIONS THIS PERHAPS WITH THE MINDSET THAT NABAL WILL BE IN A GOOD/GENEROUS MOOD.

1 SAMUEL 25:9-12 - NABAL REJECTS DAVID'S REQUEST

IT WASN'T NECESSARILY WRONG FOR NABAL TO DECLINE DAVID'S REQUEST, HOWEVER THE MANNER IN WHICH HE DID WAS RUDE AND NOT PROPORTIONAL TO THE MANNER IN WHICH DAVID MADE THE REQUEST

1 SAMUEL 25:13 - DAVID PREPARES HIS MEN TO ATTACK NABAL

Q - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS RESPONSE OF DAVID TO NABAL REJECTING HIS REQUEST?

1 SAMUEL 25:14-17 - NABAL'S SERVANT APPEALS TO ABIGAIL

1 SAMUEL 25:14-17 (NLT) - MEANWHILE, ONE OF NABAL'S SERVANTS WENT TO ABIGAIL AND TOLD HER, "DAVID SENT MESSENGERS FROM THE WILDERNESS TO GREET OUR MASTER, BUT HE SCREAMED INSULTS AT THEM. 15 THESE MEN HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD TO US, AND WE NEVER SUFFERED ANY HARM FROM THEM. NOTHING WAS STOLEN FROM US THE WHOLE TIME THEY WERE WITH US. 16 IN FACT, DAY AND NIGHT THEY WERE LIKE A WALL OF PROTECTION TO US AND THE SHEEP. 17 YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO, FOR THERE IS GOING TO BE TROUBLE FOR OUR MASTER AND HIS WHOLE FAMILY. HE'S SO ILL-TEMPERED THAT NO ONE CAN EVEN TALK TO HIM!"

THIS CONVERSATION DETAILS THE REASONABLE-NATURE OF ABIGAIL IN CONTRAST TO NABAL'S UNREASONABLE-NESS. EVERYONE IS AFRAID TO TALK TO NABAL

1 SAMUEL 25:18-22 - ABIGAIL GOES TO MEET DAVID

V. 18-19 - ABIGAIL PREPARES A "PEACE OFFERING" OF SORTS AND SENDS IT AHEAD OF HER.

V. 21 - WE LEARN FROM THIS VERSE THAT DAVID'S INITIAL REQUEST FOR SUPPLIES FROM NABAL WAS NOT AS RANDOM AS IT SEEMED. DAVID HAD BEEN HELPING THE SHEPHERDS OF NABAL AND SERVING AS A BUFFER AGAINST ANY ENEMIES OR THIEVES. REMEMBER DAVID, THE NOW GROWN "SHEPHERD BOY" IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE SHEPHERD'S JOB.

1 SAMUEL 15:23-31 - ABIGAIL INTERCEDES FOR NABAL AND THEIR HOUSEHOLD AND PLEADS WITH DAVID

V. 25 - ABIGAIL KNOWS NABAL IS A FOOL. SHE REFERENCES HIS NAME AS EVIDENCE. SHE ALSO TELLS DAVID THAT HAD SHE SEEN HIS 10 MESSENGERS, SHE WOULD HAVE REPLIED FAVORABLY. IN THIS SHE BEGINS TO BUILD HER CASE THAT DAVID SHOULD NOT DESTROY NABAL AND HIS HOUSEHOLD, FOR SOME OF THEM ARE INNOCENT.

V. 30-31 - ABIGAIL APPEALS TO DAVID'S CONSCIENCE. ESSENTIALLY SHE IS SAYING "DAVID, WHEN YOU BECOME KING AND THE LORD ESTABLISHES YOUR THRONE, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HAVE THE FACT THAT YOU KILLED INNOCENT PEOPLE (LIKE ME & NABAL'S SERVANTS) TROUBLING YOUR CONSCIENCE?"

1 SAMUEL 15:32-35 - DAVID LISTENS TO ABIGAIL

V. 33-34 - DAVID RECOGNIZES ABIGAIL'S DISCERNMENT. ABIGAIL CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

1 SAMUEL 15:36-38 - NABAL HEARS THE NEWS, DIES.

Q - WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS SO SHOCKING TO NABAL?

V. 37 - "HIS HEART DIED WITHIN HIM SO THAT HE BECAME A STONE" - NET: "HAD A STROKE AND WAS PARALYZED" NLT: "HE HAD A STROKE AND LAY PARALYZED ON HIS BED LIKE A STONE" NIV: "HIS HEART FAILED HIM"

THIS IS ALSO A LESSON TO US IN "NEVER TAKE YOUR OWN REVENGE, BELOVED, BUT LEAVE ROOM FOR THE WRATH OF GOD, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," SAYS THE LORD" (ROMANS 12:19). GOD TOOK CARE OF DAVID'S ENEMY RATHER THAN DAVID TAKING HIS OWN VENGEANCE BASED ON HIS OFFENDED HEART.

1 SAMUEL 15:39-42 - DAVID PROPOSES TO ABIGAIL AND SHE BECOMES HIS WIFE

V. 39 - DAVID ACKNOWLEDGES GOD'S HAND IN THIS AND IS GRATEFUL TO NOT HAVE UNJUSTLY AVENGED HIMSELF

1 SAMUEL 15:43-44 - DAVID'S OTHER WIVES

V. 43 - DAVID HAD ALSO MARRIED AHINOAM OF JEZREEL

V. 44 - AS A RESULT OF DAVID'S ABSENCE AND SAUL'S ANGER TOWARDS HIM, SAUL REMARRIES HIS DAUGHTER MICHAL (WHO HAD BEEN DAVID'S WIFE) TO ANOTHER MAN. WE WILL SEE MICHAL AND DAVID REUNITED TOGETHER LATER, SO THIS MARRIAGE MAY HAVE BEEN AGAINST MICHAL'S WILL (WE KNOW MICHAL LOVED DAVID VERY MUCH, 1 SAM. 18:20, 28)