

8/23/09

1Sam. 24-25

David and his mighty men have been protected from the treachery of the men of Keilah by God and from Saul.

David has been encouraged by his faithful friend Jonathan, without knowing that this would be their last meeting, to assure David he would not die by the hand of his father but rather be the next king.

Saul now continues his pursuit of David.

24:1-22 The mercy of David over Saul at En Gedi.

24:1-7 The pursuit of David to En Gedi.

- 1) Saul, now continued pursuing David. vs. 1
 - a) Saul had returned from fighting the Philistines, who had invaded the land. vs. 1a-b
* 1Sam. 23:27-28
 - b) Saul was told him, saying, “Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi.” vs. 1c-e
- 2) Saul with three thousand chosen men went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. vs. 2

- 3) Saul entered a cave. vs. 3
 - a) The location was the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave. vs. 3a-b
 - b) Saul went in to attend to his needs. vs. 3c
 - c) David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave. vs. 3d
- 4) The occasion seemed to be by the direction of God. vs. 4
 - a) The men of David expressed it first, “This is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.’” vs. 4a-d
 - 1)) The word hand is key to this chapter.
 - 2)) Psalm 57 142 are connected with this incident.
 - b) David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. vs. 4e
- 5) The conviction of David for his action against Saul. vs. 5-7
 - a) David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe. vs. 5
 - b) David acknowledged his wrong to his men, “And he said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD’S anointed, to stretch out my hand

against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.” vs. 6

* David will spare Saul again in the chapter 26.

- c) David took charge over his men,
 - 1)) He restrained his servants with his words. vs. 7a
 - 2)) He did not allow them to rise against Saul. vs. 7b
 - 3)) He allowed Saul to get up from the cave and go his way. vs. 7c

24:8-15 The pleading of David with Saul.

- 1) The submission of David to Saul. vs. 8
 - a) David addressed Saul with respect, as he came out of the cave, saying, “My lord the king!” vs. 8a-e
 - b) David humbled himself to Saul, as Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. vs. 8f-h
- 2) The question to Saul was, why did Saul listen to the slander of David, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Indeed David seeks your harm’?” vs. 9
- 3) The evidence of David sparing Saul in the cave, cleared David of all lies. vs. 10
 - a) Saul witnessed God had delivered him to David in the cave. vs. 10a-b
 - b) Despite being asked to kill him. vs. 10c

- c) David had spared him and would do so ongoing, “But my eye spared you, and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’S anointed.’” vs. 10d-g
- 4) The words of David were not false. vs. 11
 - a) David respectfully calling Saul father, he asked him to look at the corner of his robe in his hand. vs. 11a-e
 - b) David pointed out, he could have killed him but did not, being the proof that there was no evil or rebellion in him. vs. 11f-i
 - c) David declared he had not sinned against Saul, yet he was hunting David’s life to kill him. vs. 11j-k
- 5) David turned Saul over to God. vs. 12
 - a) He asked that the LORD judge between both of them. vs. 12a
 - b) He committed himself to let Yahweh avenge David. vs. 12b
 - c) He promised not to raise a hand against Saul. vs. 12c
- 6) David accused Saul indirectly of being the guilty one by a proverb. vs. 13
- 7) David gave no importance to himself. vs. 14
 - a) He posed a question, “After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue?” vs. 14a-b

- b) He likened himself to a dead dog? A flea? vs. 14c-d
- 8) David rested in the justice of God. vs. 15
 - a) He is all knowing, “Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case. vs. 15a-c
 - b) He would protect David, “and deliver me out of your hand.” vs. 15d

24:16-22 The remorse of Saul towards David.

- 1) Saul was like a weathervane. vs. 16
 - a) His words were false, “As David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” vs. 16a-d
 - * People like Saul are convincing to those that do not know them but not to those who do know them.
 - b) His tears were deceptive, “And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.” vs. 16e
 - * The repentance of the world brings forth death. 2Cor. 7:10
- 2) Saul acknowledged the goodness of David and his evil towards David. vs. 17-18
 - a) He said David was more righteous than he. vs. 17
 - b) He pointed to the present act of mercy by not killing him. vs. 18

- 3) Saul identified himself as the enemy of David, spared by him and petitioned the LORD to reward him. vs. 19
- 4) Saul acknowledges David will be king and the kingdom under his control. vs. 20
- 5) Saul asked David to swear by the LORD that he would not cut off his descendants after him and destroy his name from his father’s house. vs. 21
- 6) David complied with Saul’s request. vs. 21
 - a) He swore to Saul by an oath. vs. 21a
 - b) Saul went home, to Gibeah of Saul. vs. 21b
 - c) David and his men went up to the stronghold, probably En Gedi. vs. 21c

25:1-13 **The foolish words of Nabal prompted the anger of David.**

- 25:1** The death of Samuel is recorded.
- 1) The time was while David was a fugitive from Saul, marking a great transition. vs. 1a
 - a) The death of Samuel brought an end of an era, from the judges to the monarchy, anointing both Saul and David, as kings.
 - b) Samuel had been the last of the judges and the first of the prophets to the kings.

- c) Samuel saw David last, at Ramah, when he fled from Saul and they both went to Naioth. 1Sam. 18:18
- d) Samuel's death was when David was hiding in En Gedi. 1Sam. 24:1, 22
- 2) The burial of Samuel was attended by many. vs. 1b-d
 - a) The Israelites gathered together and lamented "caphad" wailed and mourned, for him. vs. 1b
 - b) They buried him at his home in Ramah. vs. 1c
 - c. The fugitive David, after he attended Samuel's funeral returned down to the Wilderness of Paran. vs. 1d
 - 1) It is doubtful that Saul was present.
 - 2) David now goes to the wilderness of Paran, west of the southern end of the Dead Sea.

25:2-3 The identity of Nabal.

- 1) His place of residence and work. vs. 2a
 - a) He lived in Maon, a city 7-8 miles south of Hebron, the northern wilderness of Paran.
 - b) He had a business or work in Carmel, which means "garden-land", not Mount Carmel to the north of the Mediterranean coast, below modern day Hipha.
- 2) His economic standing. vs. 2b-c

- a) He was exceedingly wealthy. vs. 2b
- b) He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. vs. 2c
- c) He was sheering his sheering his sheep at Carmel. vs. 2d
- 3) His social status was married. vs. 3
 - a) The name of the man was Nabal, which means fool. vs. 3a
 - * This must have been an acquired nick-name perhaps, due to his character, not a given name!
 - b) The name of his wife was Abigail "abiygayil", which means my father is joy or exalted of my father. vs. 3b
 - * She is called the Carmelites. 1Sam. 27:3
 - c) The one is a person of character, the other is not. vs. 3c-d
 - 1)) Abigail was a woman of good understanding "towb sekel". a pleasant, agreeable, prudent and insightful woman of intellect, the process necessary for wisdom.
 - 2)) Abigail is also said to be beautiful in appearance "yapheh to'ar", attractive in face and shapely in figure. vs. 3c
 - * Used for Rachel and notice her intellect came first, then her physical appearance! Gen. 29:17

- 3)) Nabal was in contrast was a harsh man and evil in his doings “qasheh ra”, cruel, sever, hard-hearted, malignant and displeasing. vs. 3d
* The double description of Nabal indicates ill natured in his temper and disposition, wicked and fraudulent in his dealing with men.
- 4)) Nabal was of the house of Caleb, yet exhibited none of his greatness! vs. 3e

25:4-8 The message sent to Nabal by David by some of his men.

- 1) David got news in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. vs. 4
* The custom was to be gracious, out of appreciation, to those who acted as protectors to the men and the flocks.
- 2) David sent greetings of blessings to Nabal. vs. 5
 - a) Ten men were sent directly to Nabal in the name of David. vs. 5
 - b) David sent the men to greet to the one who lived in prosperity with a three-fold blessing. vs. 6
 - 1)) “Peace be to you.”
 - 2)) “Peace to your house.”
 - 3)) “Peace to all that you have!”

- 3) David was to informing Nabal, how they provided security for his shepherds. vs. 7-8
 - a) Declaring the awareness of his shearers. vs. 7a
 - b) Declaring how they protected his shepherds. vs. 7b-d
 - c) Asking to verify it by his own men. vs. 8a-b
- 4) David was requesting some compensation. vs. 8c-d
 - a) As a sign of his appreciation. vs. 8c-d
 - b) As a benevolent master. vs. 8e

25:9-13 The insulting words of Nabal to David.

- 1) The messengers came representing David, delivering his words and added nothing. vs. 9
- 2) The demeaning words of Nabal scorned David. vs. 10-11
 - a) Nabal pretended as if he did not know who David was, not his family. vs. 10a-d
 - 1)) Implying David was no person of importance.
 - 2)) Revealing his animosity towards David, as Saul’s subject!
 - 3)) Everyone knew who David was, he was the giant slayer, Goliath.

- b) Nabal accused David of being a rebellious servant, who break away from his master. vs. 10e
 - 1)) Implying David was in rebellion against Saul.
 - 2)) Saul had set up a monument for himself, in Camel, after he disobeyed God to destroy the Amelekites. 1Sam. 15:12
- c) Nabal disdained and dishonored the men sent by David, as if they were thieves or thugs. vs. 11
 - 1)) Seven times Nabal gives emphasis to himself by the words “I”, “my”.
 - 2)) David without doubt knew all the time that Nabal was loyal to Saul, yet restrained himself from just taking the sheep or just killed Nabal.
- 3) The message of Nabal was carried back to David. vs. 12
 - a) The men were furious and told David. vs. 12
 - b) The anger of David blurted out in vengeance. vs. 13
 - 1)) He gave the command to gird their swords. vs. 13a-d
 - 2)) He took 400 men and left 200 at the camp. vs. 13e-f

25:14-35 The wise intercession of Abigail dissuaded the vengeance of David.

25:14-17 The warning of the impending danger came to Abigail by way of a servants.

- 1) The servant understood the danger they were under. vs. 14
 - a) The wise servant reported to Abigail about his masters evil words to David’s men. vs. 14
 - b) The words reviled “” iiyt”, means to scream, swoop upon, the idea being with arrogant disrespect.
- 2) The servant reported the great safety they experienced, due to the constant care of David’s men. vs. 15-16
 - a) They were kind. vs. 15a
 - b) They were protective. vs. 15b-d
 - c) They were diligent watchmen. vs. 16
- 3) The servant exhorted Abigail to act swiftly. vs. 17
 - a) He asked that she be wise in her plan. vs. 17a-b
 - b) He pointed out the peril of all of them. vs. 17c
 - c) He acknowledged the evil of his master. vs. 17d
 - 1)) The word scoundrel “b@liyal” means a worthless, good for nothing, unprofitable fellow.
 - 2)) A son of Belial, Satan.

25:18-22 The quick response of Abigail was essential. vs. 18-22

- 1) Abigail made adequate preparations. vs. 18-19
 - a) She gathered a good amount of food. vs. 18
 - b) She ordered a servant to go ahead of her. vs. 19a-d
 - c) She withheld it from her husband. vs. 19e
- 2) The confrontation was a courageous and highly emotional. vs. 20-22
 - a) Abigail met David at the mountain pass. vs. 20
 - b) David voiced his anger towards Nabal. vs. 21
 - * David was acting as a fool as Nabal, at this point, yet he would not touch Saul, who tried to kill him!
 - c) David in his anger made a rash oath by God to take vengeance on Nabal. vs. 22

25:23-31 The prudent words of Abigail revealed her godly character.

- 1) She humbled herself before David. vs. 23
 - a) She took the position of being before one greater than herself, falling on her face before David. vs. 23a-c

- b) She honor to David, as she bowed down to the ground. vs. 23d
- 2) She pleaded for pity from David. vs. 24
 - a) By her actions, as she fell at his feet. vs. 24a
 - b) By blame for her husband, “On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be!” vs. 24a-b
 - c) By begging to speak as his servant. “And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.” vs. 24c-d
- 3) She presented her case to David. vs. 25
 - a) Abigail affirmed her husband to be a fool by a play on words. vs. 25a-f
 - * She is not betraying him but saving him, being candid and wise!
 - b) Abigail affirmed her own fault in the matter by not seeing the men. vs. 25g-i
- 4) Abigail told David it was God who was stopping him. vs. 26-27
 - a) She prefaced it with an oath. vs. 26a-c
 - b) She pointed out this was God’s intervention. vs. 26d
 - * She uses the covenant name of God, Yahweh!
 - c) She declared her allegiance to David against Saul. vs. 26e-f
 - * The implication being, the allegiance of Nabal was with Saul!

- d) She presented the provision she brought to be given to the young men. vs. 27
- 4) Abigail confirmed that God would keep his word and make David king. vs. 28-31
 - a) She asked forgiveness. vs. 28a
 - b) She assured David was the instrument of God to establish his kingdom, being blameless. vs. 28
 - c) She affirmed God's protection over him, from Saul. vs. 29
 - * The imagery is very picturesque, a metaphor used for binding up valuable things to protect them from injury, while flinging out his enemies, unprotected!
 - d) She promises David would have no regrets about dismissing this matter, when he became king and looked back on it, without grief or regret but only to consider her part. vs. 30-31

25:32-35 The grateful words of David to Abigail.

- 1) David blessed God for sending Abigail. vs. 32
- 2) David blessed Abigail for her advice, stopping him from blood and vengeance. vs. 33
- 3) David acknowledged God's intervention to stop him from murder. vs. 34

- 4) David received her gift and dismissed her giving favor to her person. vs. 35

25:36-44 **The sovereign justice of God was dispensed on Nabal for his evil.**

25:36-38 The death of Nabal by the hand of God.

- 1) Abigail made her way back home to her foolish husband. vs. 36
 - a) She found Nabal was holding a feast, like a king. vs. 36a-d
 - b) She found Nabal very intoxicated. vs. 36e
 - c) She found words would be in vain, until the morning. vs. 36f-h
 - * "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of **pride**, But the lips of the wise will preserve them." Prov. 14:3
- 2) Abigail the next morning told Nabal of David's anger and her intervention and witnessed him have a stroke. vs. 37
- 3) Abigail saw the complete vengeance of God in, after ten days, as the LORD took Nabal's life, vs. 38
 - * "**Pride** goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18

25:39-44 The marriage of Abigail to David. vs. 39-44

- 1) David rejoiced in the justice of God. vs. 39
 - a) Recognizing it was the faithfulness of God to him, judging Nabal and keeping him from evil. vs. 39a-e
 - b) Recognizing this was God's judgment on Nabal's head. vs. 39f
 - c) Recognizing the good deed of his maidservant, taking Abigail as his wife." vs. 39g-h
- 2) David sent a small delegation for his bride to be. vs. 40-42
 - a) The arrival of the servants. vs. 40
 - b) The acceptance of the proposal was in humility. vs. 41
 - c) The journey and marriage. vs. 42
 - * They had one son named, Kileab or Daniel. 2Sam. 3:2, 1Chron. 3:1
- 3) David had more than one wife. vs. 43
 - a) David took Ahinoam of Jezreel before Abigail, indicated by the pluperfect, both of them were his wives. vs. 43
 - * She was the mother of Amnon, David's first-born. 2Sam. 3:2
 - b) Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim." vs. 44
 - 1) Saul did it to hurt and provoke David. 1Sam. 18:27g

- 2)) David saw her last, as he fled out the window of his house, never bore a child to David. 1Sam. 19:12
- 3)) David told Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, to take Michal from her husband and return her to him, as a condition to unite the kingdom. 2Sam. 3:14-15