

An Impulsive King, A Foolish Man & A Wise Woman

The Book of **1 SAMUEL**

Chapter 25

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Melaka Gospel Chapel

Sunday 28/7/2019

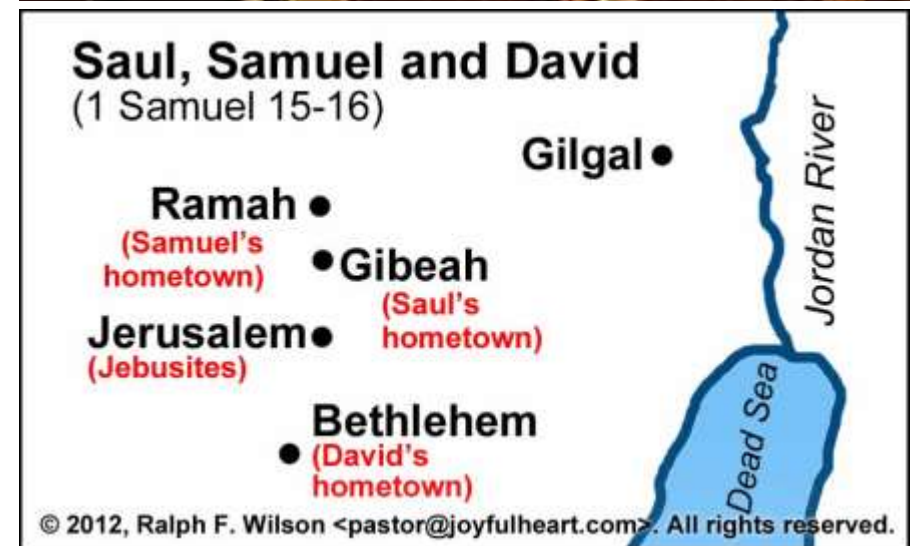
Outline

- Recap
- Introduction
- 1) Losing A Friend (v1)
- 2) Discovering An Enemy (v2-13)
- 3) Taking A Wife (v14-44)
- Conclusion



Recap

- 1) The Birth & Call of Samuel (ch 1-4:1a)
- 2) The Loss & Return of the ark (ch 4:1b-7)
- 3) Saul Anointed King (ch 8-12)
- 4) The Failure of Saul's Kingship (ch 13-15)
- 5) The Rise of David (ch 16-17)
- 6) The Decline & Death of Saul (ch 18-31)
 - David's life as the head of a band of guerrillas
 - David's obedience to God & his character



FIRST SAMUEL

	Samuel The Last Judge				Saul The First King		
BEGINNING							
<u>Samuel's godliness</u>	BIRTH	GROWTH AND CALL	MINISTRY	CHANGE	REJECTION BY GOD	REBELLION AGAINST GOD	
<u>National hope</u>					Impatient Rash Disobedient "Insane" Jealous Murderous		
<u>Motivation</u>							
<u>Purity</u>							
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTERS 2-3	CHAPTERS 4-7	CHAPTERS 8-12	CHAPTERS 13-16	CHAPTERS 17-31	ENDING
						DAVID chosen, trained, tested, protected . . .	<u>Saul's apostasy</u>
							<u>Depression</u>
							<u>Personal despair</u>
							<u>Suicide</u>
Attitude of the People	Public trust				Public disillusionment		
Theme	Though leaders and nations change, God's purposes always move forward.						
Key Verses	8:6-9; 13:14						
Christ in 1 Samuel	Typified in Samuel, who was a prophet, priest, and judge; also portrayed in the life of David . . . shepherd, king, and born in Bethlehem						

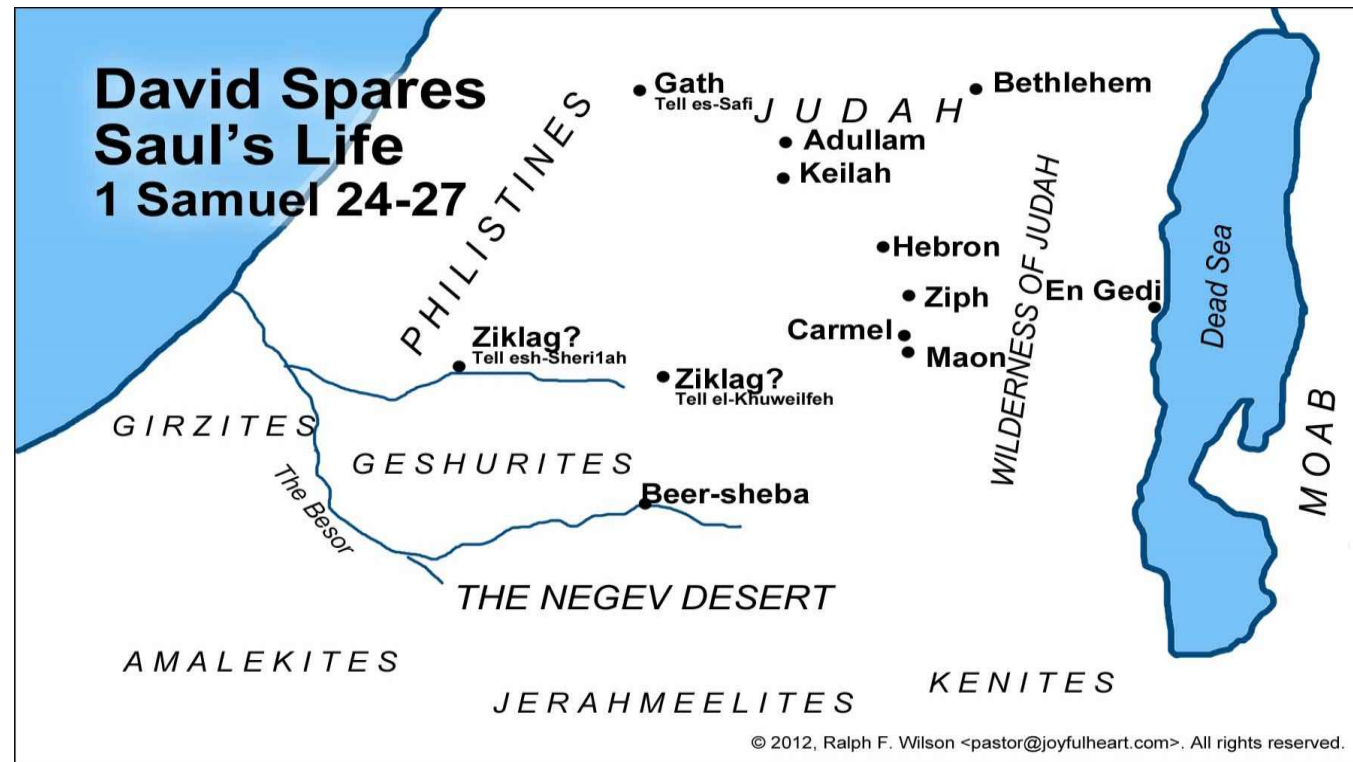
Introduction

- Personal relationships vs. relationship with our Lord
- Roles that these relationships have played in our lives
- Don't leave God out of the picture. God is the "director"
 - Writes the script for us
 - Chooses the cast
 - Puts in the scenes
- If we follow His directions, life is satisfying in His will
- If we rebel, plot becomes a tragedy.
- Chapter 25 & 26 describes 4 events in David's relationships with 4 kinds of people *

**NEVER COMPLAIN
ABOUT THE
DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE,
BECAUSE THE
DIRECTOR (GOD)
ALWAYS GIVES
THE HARDEST
ROLES TO
HIS BEST ACTOR..**

1 Samuel 25: 1

- Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon.



1) Losing A Friend (v1)

- Death of Samuel
 - Israel's prophet & judge
 - Mentioned 2x (28:3)
 - A great man
 - Faith & courage
 - United the nation of Israel
 - Installed a monarchy in Israel
- Nation mourned his death – many gathered to bury him
- Saul – likely did not attend the funeral
 - Why? Saul & Samuel had not been on good terms for 7 years
 - But Saul would call on Samuel for help even after Samuel's death (chapter 28)



- People of Israel – did not always obey Samuel
 - But they honoured him when he died
- Samuel versus Saul:
 - Samuel - buried in his own house in Ramah (garden or courtyard)
 - King Saul – wanted a public monument at Carmel (15:12)
- Samuel
 - deserves the honour but
 - humbly asked to be buried at his own house

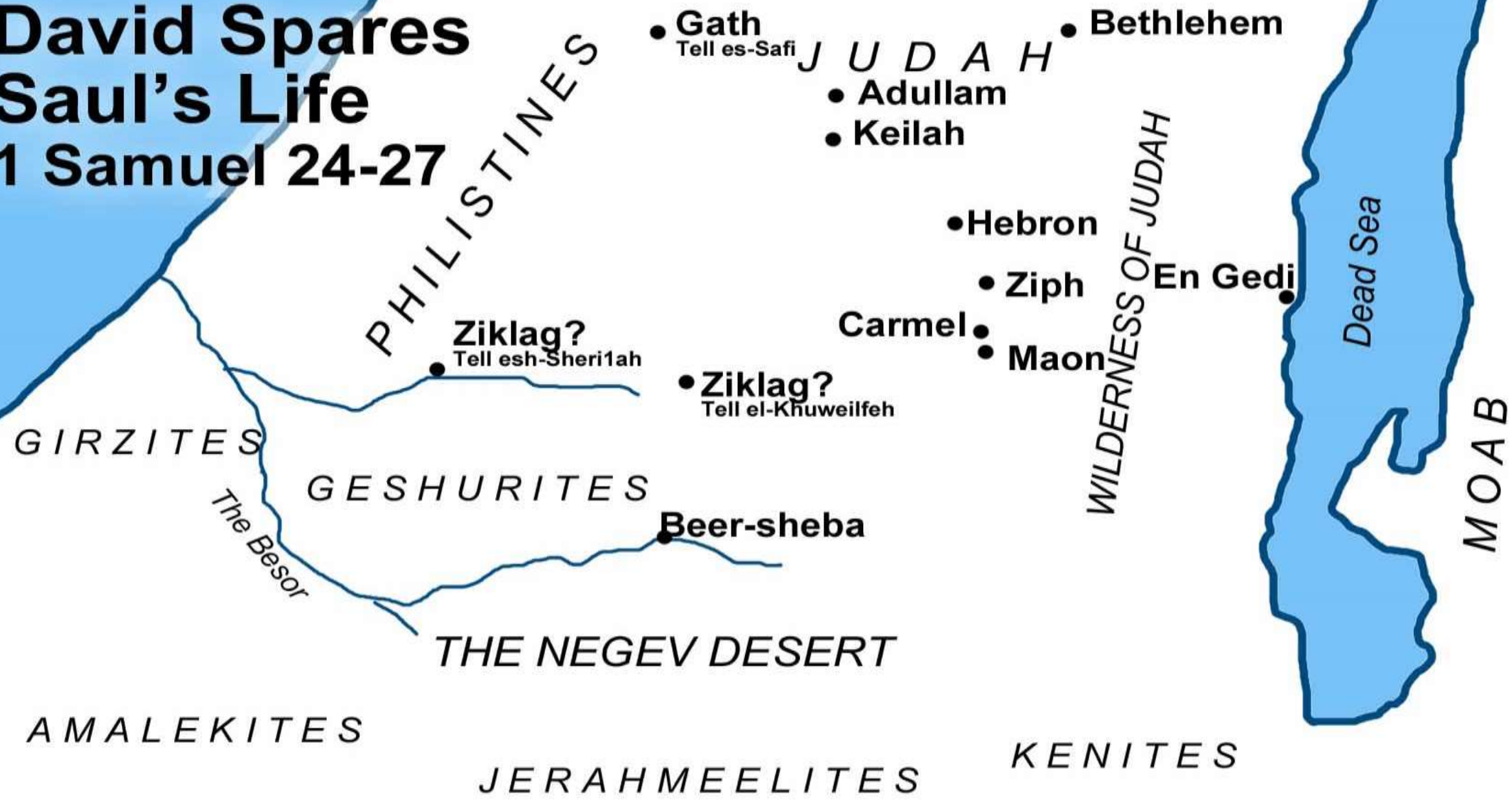
- David – dangerous to attend the funeral at Ramah – Saul’s spies
 - Went into wilderness – WHY?
 - He had shown love and respect for Samuel when prophet was alive!
 - No need for public appearance
- Samuel and David’s relationship:
 - Samuel anointed David as king of Israel
 - Samuel often protected David & counselled him
- Application: Older generation should spend time to counsel younger leaders/Christians.
 - Help to prepare them to serve the Lord & His people.
 - Younger leaders should listen and learn.

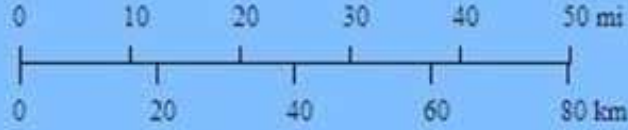
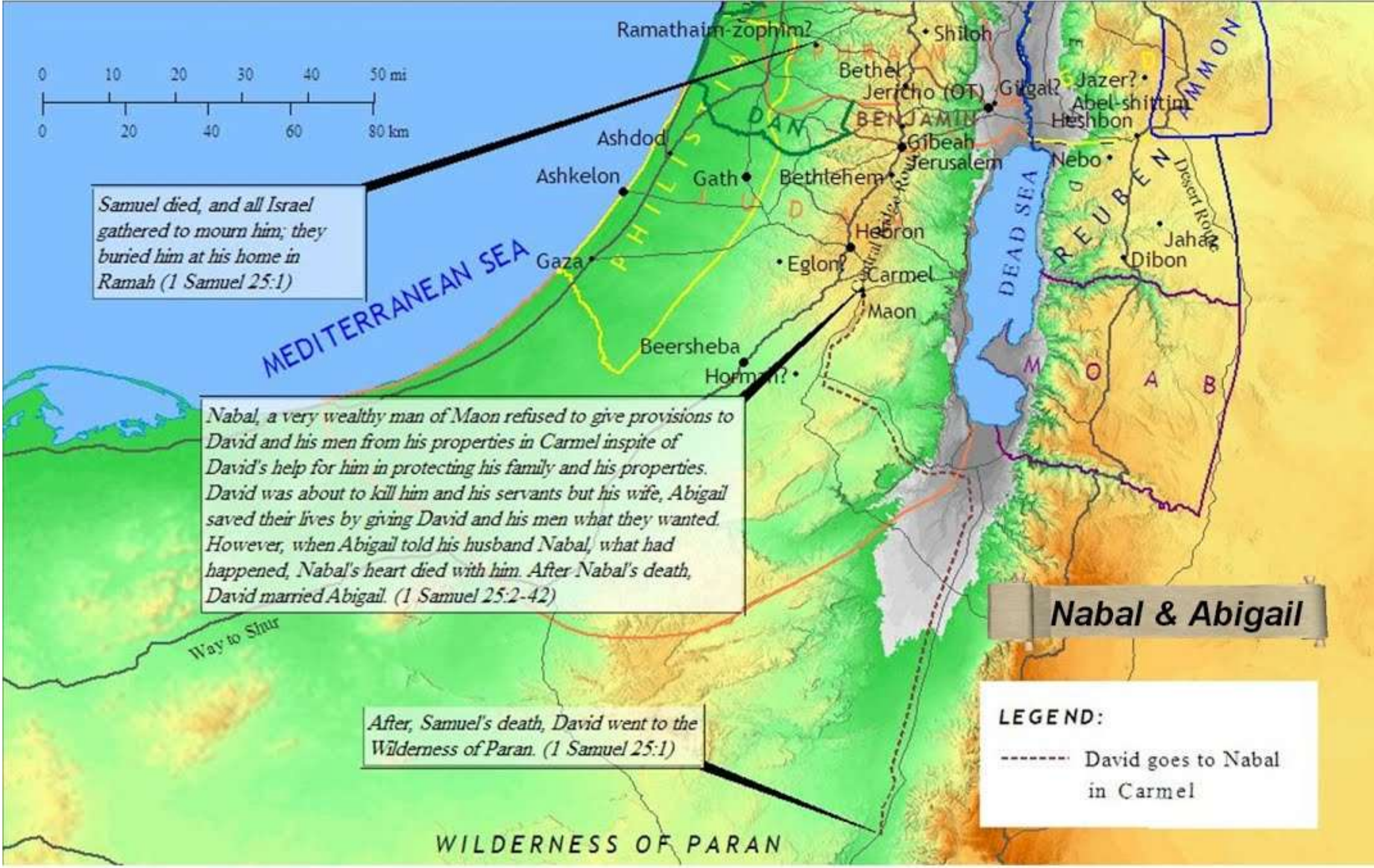
- Samuel – effective spiritual mentor and counsellor
 - Why? He put God's concern ahead of Israel's politics
 - Pleasing God more important than being popular with people
- His heart was broken – people asked for a king
- Samuel obeyed God and anointed David
- Died knowing that the kingdom is in good hands.

Places Where David & His Men Hid

- Masada (*“the stronghold”*) where David was when Samuel died (24:22)
- “Wilderness of Paran” where His band of fugitives moved to
 - More than 100 miles south
 - Without Samuel around – greater danger for him
 - Need to go further from Saul
- “Maon” - place near the Dead Sea where David has been before (23:24)
 - Event between David and Nabal occurred here, near Carmel (25:2)
 - David’s hiding place?
- Next – meeting between David and Nabal *

David Spares Saul's Life 1 Samuel 24-27





Samuel died, and all Israel gathered to mourn him; they buried him at his home in Ramah (1 Samuel 25:1)

Nabal, a very wealthy man of Maon refused to give provisions to David and his men from his properties in Carmel in spite of David's help for him in protecting his family and his properties. David was about to kill him and his servants but his wife, Abigail saved their lives by giving David and his men what they wanted. However, when Abigail told his husband Nabal, what had happened, Nabal's heart died with him. After Nabal's death, David married Abigail. (1 Samuel 25:2-42)

After, Samuel's death, David went to the Wilderness of Paran. (1 Samuel 25:1)

Nabal & Abigail

LEGEND:
----- David goes to Nabal in Carmel

WILDERNESS OF PARAN

1 Samuel 25: 2-13

- (2) A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel.
- (3) His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.
- (4) While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.
- (5) So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name."

- (6) Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'
- (7) "'Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing.'
- (8) Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.'"
- (9) When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited.

- (10) Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days.
- (11) Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"
- (12) David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word.
- (13) David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

2) Discovering An Enemy (v2-13)

- In Maon, David's men formed a wall of protection for Nabal's flocks
- Nabal – very rich but not generous
- When David was in Nabal's neighbourhood –
 - Shearing time & a festival celebration (2 Samuel 13:23)
 - Hoped that Nabal will reward him and his men for their services/protection
 - Thieves were common at shearing time
 - Sent 10 men & asked to be invited to the feast
 - Nabal refused them

Nabal

- Character :
 - Described as “churlish and evil” (KJV), “surly and mean” (NIV) (v3)
 - “churlish” = “mean & dishonest in all his dealings”
 - Q: Did he become rich by being dishonest?
 - From the tribe of Judah & family of Caleb (*spy who entered the Promised Land*)
 - Caleb = “dog”
 - “Like a stubborn vicious animal that nobody could safely approach” (v17)
 - His own wife and a servant called him :
 - “*a son of Belial – a worthless fellow*” (v17,25)
 - Belial
 - OT = evil people who purposely broke the law and hate what is good (Deut 13:13; Judges 19:22; 20:13; 1 Sam 2:12)
 - NT = Satan (2 Cor 6:15)

- When David's men explained their request, Nabal "hurled insults at them" (v10-11)
 - Shows the heart of Nabal - selfish, arrogant & rebellious
- But Abigail (his wife) is different:
 - Recognised David as king (v28, 30)
 - Called David "my Lord"

- Nabal :
 - Accused David - *“a rebellious servant who abandoned his master!”* (v10)
 - Nabal supported Saul - not David
 - No heart for spiritual things (unlike his wife, Abigail)
 - Shows his pride & self-importance
 - Note all the personal pronouns (v11)
- 1 Sam 25:11

Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

- The 10 men reported Nabal's reply back to David (v12)
- David immediately became angry & wanted revenge (v13)
 - He could forgive Saul (who wanted to kill him)
 - But could not forgive Nabal (who refused to feed him & his men)
 - Saul was envious & had strong desire to kill an innocent man (major crime)
 - Nabal was ungrateful & selfish (not big crimes)
- Anger had controlled David – he did not consult God
 - Wanted immediate revenge (impulsive) - would have committed a terrible sin
 - Can cause great damage to his character & his career
- So God stopped him

- Application: We need to be on guard at all times. Why?
Our enemy can suddenly attack & conquer us.
- 1 Peter 5:8
Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- David – godly man & gifted leader but yet
- (Quote): “the best of men are but men at their best” *



1 Samuel 25:14-44

- (14) One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them.
- (15) Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing.
- (16) Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them.

- (17) Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."
- (18) Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys.
- (19) Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.
- (20) As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them.

- (21) David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good.
- (22) May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"
- (23) When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground.
- (24) She fell at his feet and said: "My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.

- (25) May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent.
- (26) "Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal.
- (27) And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you.
- (28) Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live.

- (29) Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling.
- (30) When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel,
- (31) my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant."
- (32) David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.

- (33) May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.
- (34) Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."
- (35) Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."
- (36) When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak.

- (37) Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone.
- (38) About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.
- (39) When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head." Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife.
- (40) His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife."

- (41) She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master's servants."
- (42) Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David's messengers and became his wife.
- (43) David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both were his wives.
- (44) But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

3) Taking A Wife (v14-44)

- When God isn't allowed to rule in our lives, He will step in & overrule.
- When David was about to do something foolish, God arranged for a wise and courageous woman to stop him.
 - i) Abigail's wise plan (v14-19)
 - ii) Abigail's humble apology (v20-35)
 - iii) Abigail's unexpected marriage (v36-44)

i) Abigail's wise plan (v14-19)

- An anonymous young man reported his master's action to Abigail
 - He was serving the Lord unknowingly
 - He couldn't talk to Nabal about anything
 - *"No one can talk to him about anything"* (v17)
 - He immediately went to Nabal's wife
- Abigail :
 - Name means "whose father is joy"
 - She is a wise and prudent woman
 - Married to a wealthy but foolish man
 - But her life with Nabal must be "tedious"
 - Husband was only interested in money, food & drink, having his own way

- The servant reported how David & his men had protected Nabal's shepherds & flocks (v16)
- But Nabal refused to pay/reward them
- Nabal & his servants - defenseless against David's 400 armed men.
- Implication:
If David had killed Nabal & his servants/family – Saul would have evidence/excuse to kill David & his men

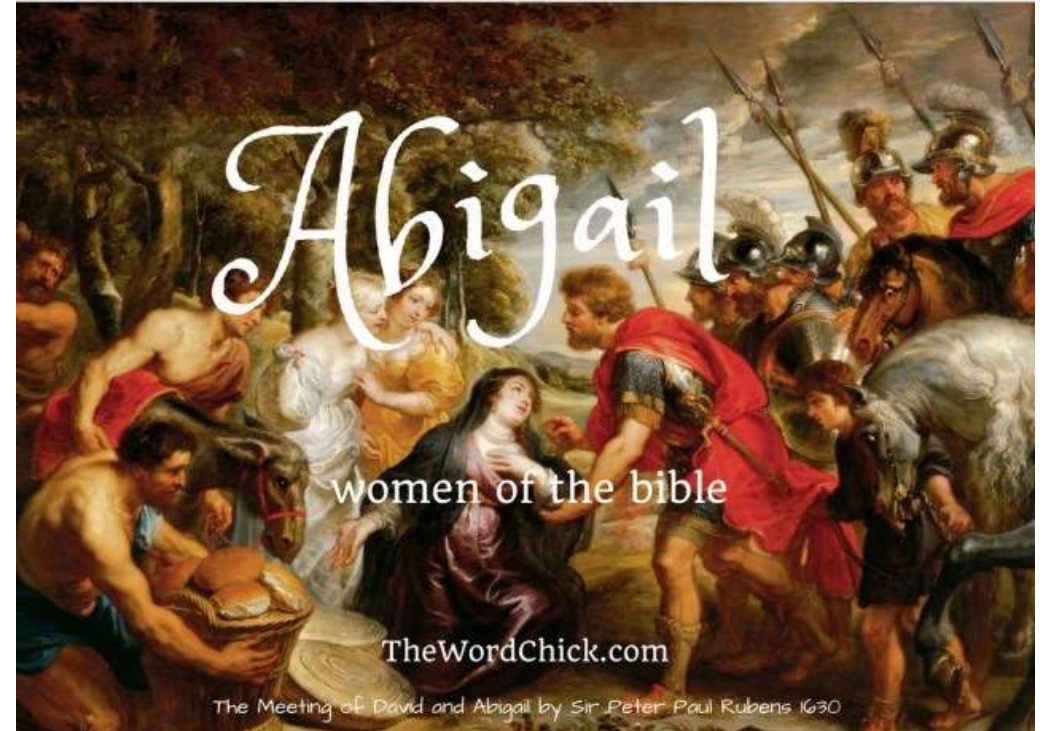
- Abigail came to the rescue (v18)
 - Arranged food/drinks for David's men (v18)
 - Didn't mention it to her husband –
 - Nabal could have opposed the plan (v19)
- She wasn't stealing from her husband – paying a debt that he refused to pay
- Nabal was putting everybody in his household & himself in danger

ii) Abigail's humble apology (v20-35)

- Perfect timing & meeting in mountain ravine – arranged by God (v20)
- Abigail
 - bowed down before David & acknowledged him as “lord and king”(v23)
 - “lord” or “master” = 14x
 - “king” = 2x
 - “your servant” = 6x
- Nabal
 - Would not have approved of her words/actions
 - Supported Saul
 - Considered David a rebel (v10)

Abigail

- Woman of faith & courage
- Believed David was God's king
- Saw King Saul as only a man (v29)
- Confessed her husband is a "worthless fellow" (fool) (v25, v17)
- Explained she did not know anything about David's request for food
- Accepted blame for "this iniquity" (v24)
- Focused her plead on David & the Lord (not David & Nabal)
- Emphasized on David's future



- David:
 - Starting to calm down
 - Realised he was with a remarkable woman
- Abigail:
 - Pointed out – God had stopped David from avenging himself
- David:
 - Admitted – this was true (v32-34)

- Abigail's plea and reasoning:
 - Husband deserved to be judged by God & not by king David (v26)
 - God will judge all the enemies of the king (v29)
 - Reminded David – Lord gave him “**a sure house**” (lasting dynasty) (v28)
 - He needn't fear the future
- The Lord will protect David no matter what Saul intends to do
- David will eventually rule over Israel
- He would be happy that he did not shed blood to avenge himself or get to his throne
- The Lord will treat him well – nothing to fear

- Abigail's one request for herself – David would remember her when he came into his kingdom (v31)
- David didn't have to wait long for Nabal's death
- He will take her as his wife!
- David took her wise advise/reproof



- Proverbs 15:31-33
- (31) He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.
- (32) He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.
- (33) The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.



- Psalms 141:5

*Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness;
let him rebuke me—it is oil on my head. My
head will not refuse it. Yet my prayer is ever
against the deeds of evildoers;*

- Application:
- How we accept correction and counsel is
 - a test of our relationship to the Lord
 - our willingness to live according to God’s Word.
- David admitted he was wrong –
 - God forgave him & helped him settle the problem



iii) Abigail's unexpected marriage (v36-44)

- Nabal was feasting when judgement was near
 - Didn't thank God for his blessings
 - Blessings could be due to his wife's faith
 - Blessed in spite of his meanness
 - His idea of happiness is eat to the full & get drunk
 - He didn't profess faith in God - so ends in destruction
- Philippians 3:19

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.



- Abigail wisely waited to the next morning to tell her husband what she had done (v36,37)
- News stunned Nabal – experienced a major stroke/heart attack (v37)
- Laid helpless for 10 days (“like a stone”) – coma? (v37,38)
- Lord took his life away – Nabal lived & died “a fool” (v38)
- David heard news of Nabal’s death (v39):
 - Praised God for avenging him
 - Prevented David from doing it himself
 - Concerned about the glory of God & His kingdom
 - Impressed with Abigail’s character & wisdom – makes good queen? (v39)
 - Sent messengers to ask for her hand in marriage (v40)

- Abigail (v41):
 - An opportunity no woman would refuse
 - Submitted to her king
 - Offered to wash his feet
- David:
 - Acquired a good wife
 - Got all Nabal's possession & wealth
 - Place near Hebron where David established his royal palace (2 Sam 2:1-4; 5:5)
 - Had already taken Ahinoam as wife – named before Abigail (27:3; 30:5)
 - Ahinoam bore 1st child – Amnon (boy)
 - Abigail bore 2nd child – Kileab (also named Daniel – 1 Chronicles 3:2)



- Q: What happened to Michal (first wife), Saul's daughter? (v44)
 - She saved David's life before
 - After David fled his house, Saul gave her to another man
 - Probably to form an alliance to strengthen his position & to break David's connection with the throne.
 - No legal divorce – Saul forced Michal into an adulterous relationship
- When David was king, he demanded that Michal be returned to him (2 Samuel 3:13-16)
- However, Michal didn't remain a loving wife
- Died childless (2 Samuel 6:16-23)

Abigail
widow
of
Nabal



Abigail – a type of Christ

She turned away David's wrath:

- 1) Abigail provided an offering on Nabal's behalf (v27) (Eph 5:2)
- 2) Abigail sought to bear Nabal's iniquity (v24) (Isa 53:11b)
- 3) Abigail asked for Nabal's forgiveness (v28) (Luke 23:34)
- 4) David accepted Abigail as an intercessor (v32) (1 Timothy 2:5)
- 5) Abigail turned away David's wrath (v34) (1 Thess 5:9)
- 6) Abigail established peace between David & Nabal (v35a)(Col 1:20b)
- 7) David was pleased with Abigail's character (v35b) (Matt 3:17)

Conclusion

- 1) Let us pray for the wisdom & courage of Abigail
- 2) Avoid the error & pride of Nabal
- 3) Not be easily angered like David
- Q: What have we been praying for?
 - Pray for wisdom
 - Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

- James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.