

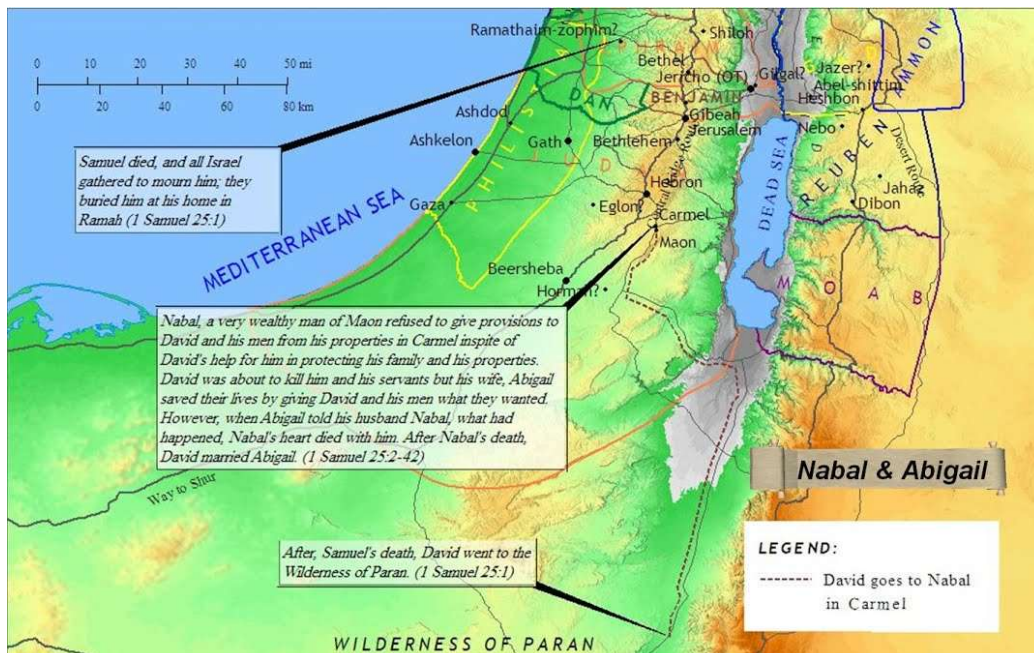
David and Abigail- 1 Samuel 25:1-43

Introduction:

How would you define a fool? Scripture says the “fool says in his heart, “There is no God”” (Psalm 14:1). The dictionary adds that the fool is one who is “deficient in judgment, sense or understanding.” What if your name means “fool”? What kind of person would you be? David meets a man whose very name means fool, and his actions seem to follow his name. The trouble with the fool is that he/she can land in all kinds of trouble. So it was in this case, but a wise woman rescues him. If ever someone says the Bible is biased against women, do not believe them. Some of the strongest characters in scripture are women. We meet one of them in this chapter. What will we learn about God from a fool, a woman and a king waiting for a throne? This is the lesson before us.

Times are Changing – 1 Samuel 25:1

1. What event is mentioned in verse 1? Why is this important? How did the people respond to this event?
2. Where does David go? Why might he choose a “wilderness”?



David's Request of Nabal – 1 Samuel 25:2-13

3. In verse 2 we are introduced to a man of Maon. What do we learn about this man? What do we not learn about him (yet)?
4. In verse 3 we learn more about this man. What new details are added?
5. Verse 3 ends with a note that Nabal is a Calebite. Who was Caleb? What might this tell us about Nabal? (keep this in mind as we see the story unfold)
6. What is Nabal doing that prompts David to reach out to him (v. 4)? Why might he send his men to Nabal at this time?
7. David send some young men to Nabal in his name, with a message of peace (cf. v. 6). He also sent the young men to ask a request of Nabal. What is the request (v. 8)? On what grounds does he make this request (vss. 7-8)?
8. In verse 9 David's men delivered their message to Nabal. What is Nabal's response to the request of David (vss. 10-11)? Why?
9. David's men return with the response of Nabal. How does David respond to the lack of gratitude shown by Nabal (v. 13)? How do things look for Nabal?

Abigail Intervenes – 1 Samuel 25:14-35

10. Who gets a message that David had come to Nabal and had been sent away (v. 14)? What background did the servant provide to Abigail (vss. 15-16)?
11. What does the servant of Nabal fear according to verse 17?
12. What is Abigail's response to the crisis her family is in (vss.18-19)? Does she tell Nabal, her husband, what she is doing? Why?
13. In verse 20, who does Abigail intercept?
14. Verses 21-22 seem to show a pouting, grumbling-under-his-breath David. What has him so riled up?

15. When Abigail sees David, what does she do? What does she say (vss. 23-24)?
16. What is Abigail saying in verse 25?
17. In verse 26 Abigail wisely turns the focus away from Nabal to something that was not only important but had long term consequences. What was that (v. 26)?
18. In verse 27 Abigail presents her gifts to David and his men. In verse 28 she does two things. What are they?
19. In verse 29 Abigail uses two images. What are they, and how do they relate to the life of David?
20. Abigail points out an important truth in verses 30-31. In the context of affirming that David would be king, she reminds David about what kind of King God would want him to be. What does she tell David?
21. In verses 32-34 David speaks about his gratitude to wise Abigail for what she has done through her actions. She has not only fed his men, but what else has she done?
22. In verse 35 David responds to what Abigail has done. What does he promise?

Nabal's Death – 1 Samuel 25:36-43

23. When Abigail returns from her mission to save her family and servants, what does she find her husband Nabal doing (v. 36)?
24. At first Abigail does not tell Nabal what has happened. When she does tell him how does he respond (v. 37)? What ultimately happens to Nabal (v. 38)?
25. How does David interpret the death of Nabal (v. 39)? What does David do at the death of Nabal?
26. In verse 40 David sends his men to Abigail to take her as his wife. How does Abigail respond to this gesture of David in verse 41? What does this say about Abigail?

27. Does Abigail seem hesitant or anxious to be the wife of David (v. 42)?
28. The chapter ends with a list of David's wives. Who was Michal? What seems to have happened to this marriage arrangement? Who else does David marry besides Abigail? The only other time we hear of a "Ahinoam" is in 14:50. Who might this lady be? Why this marriage?

Conclusion

In this chapter David nearly makes a grave mistake. In his anger and possibly the fear of losing the respect of his men, he is ready to destroy a whole family. He requests supplies from Nabal as a token of gratitude for the protection his men provided Nabal's shepherds, but Nabal will have none of it. Nabal's thinking is very short term and he is not willing to share any of his wealth to say "thank you" to David and his men. David is angered by this show of disrespect and lack of hospitality. Nabal's servants know what is owed to David and his men and they know how insulting Nabal was. They wisely go to Abigail who responds quickly and wisely, bringing a "thank you" bundle to David and his men. David's anger is subdued, and his eyes are opened to a truth: he was willing to take matters into his own hands. He would not kill King Saul because he valued the life of the king. Here he learns he must value the life of all God's people, even a fool like Nabal, and let God bring justice. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," God says in Deuteronomy 32:35.

How easy it is for us to want to right the wrongs done to us. We too may become angry at the way people treat us. True, we may encounter fools like Nabal who are not just, but we still do not have the right to take matters into our own hands. First and foremost we must trust God. In God's time, and in God's way, justice will be served – even if we must wait until judgement day.

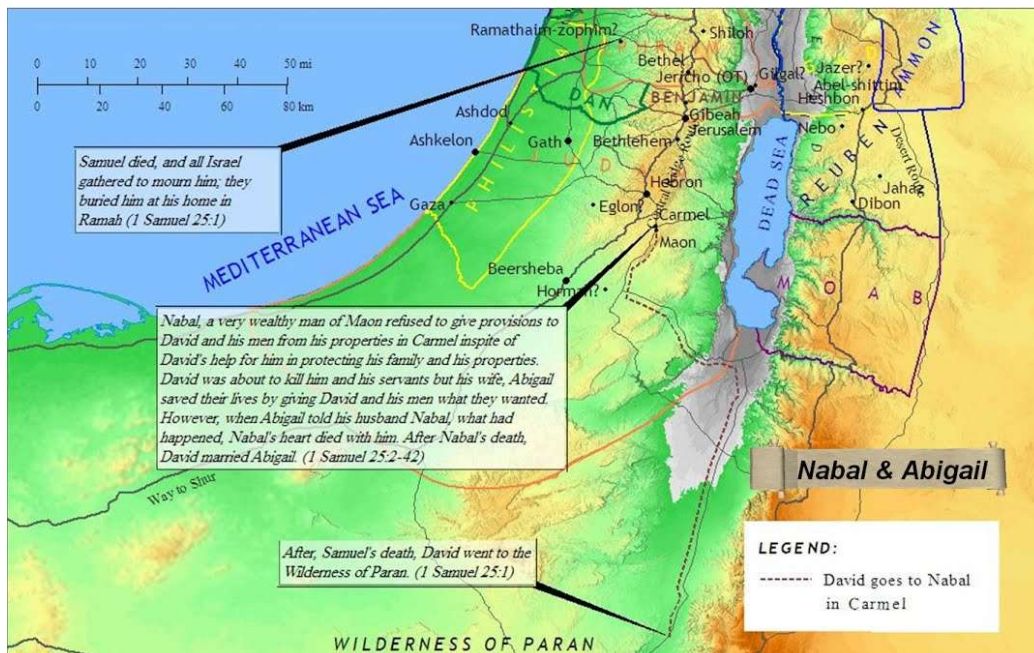
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