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<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-maps-timeline-chronology-1samuel-21-31-saul-david-on-the-run-1012-1004bc.htm>



The image shows a grey rounded rectangle containing the title "Index of David's Psalms 1018-1014 BC" and a table with four columns: Ps, Location, Date, and Event. The text is light grey and semi-transparent.

Ps	Location	Date	Event
7	Judah	1018	fleeing Saul
59	Gibeah	1018	escapes house
56	Gath	1018	captured by Philistines
34	Gath	1018	faked insanity
52	Nob	1018	Doeg kills priests
63	Edom	1018	Gad orders david home
54	Ziph	1017	Ziphites betray David
22	Maoh	1017	David surrounded
18	Moah	1017	David escapes
142	Engedi	1015	David in Cave
57	Engedi	1015	David cuts Sauls robe

1 Samuel 25

The Death of Samuel

1And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house

at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

If you recall Samuel was the final man God had chosen to hold three simultaneous positions: Prophet, Priest and Judge. As the final Judge, Priest and Prophet, God used Samuel to anoint the first and second Kings of Israel. Samuel was used in so many ways by God to carry out God's Will within and without Israel. The end of Samuel's life was a blow to Israel. He had been God's Rock on earth for over 80 years.

In Chapter 24 it appears that Saul and David had reunited but we find here that David flees again to Maon and Saul continues to pursue him.

David and Nabal

2And *there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.*

This Carmel is not the same as Mt Carmel. This Carmel is in the wilderness of Maon a bit toward the southern end of the Dead Sea. Within this wilderness is the city of Carmel where Nabal lived and had his possessions.

Nabal was wealthy from all of his sheep and goats. During this time of David being in the area, his men had guarded those in the

area from attacks including Nabal and his flocks, without asking or taking anything from these people.

This specific event is when Nabal has his slaves shearing his sheep and goats.

3Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

“Nabal”, means foolish in Hebrew

“Abigail”, means “my father’s joy” in Hebrew

Strong’s Concordance “Churlish”

“”*was churlish*

qasheh (kaw-sheh')

severe -- churlish, cruel, grievous, hard(-hearted), thing), heavy, + impudent, obstinate, prevailed, rough(-ly), sore, sorrowful, stiff(necked), stubborn, + in trouble.

4And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

Likely from his men that had kept watch over the local people and their herds, David learned that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

5And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: **6**And thus shall ye say to him that liveth *in prosperity*, Peace be both to thee, and peace *be* to thine house, and peace *be* unto all

that thou hast. 7And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

David sends an envoy to seek some payment for all his men had done in protecting the area especially the wealthiest of them Nabal. It seems like it must have been a common practice to protect others and then seek some compensation for your efforts. In today's day and age, a prior agreement would be necessary but it does not appear so during this time.

David's men were to point out the time they spent providing protective oversight without ever asking for anything or taking anything from these shepherds.

8Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

David tells his men to have Nabal confirm what David was saying with his own men. Within that conversation they were then ask Nabal to give them some of their wool as compensation for their diligence in protecting them. David's name was to appear prominently as undoubtedly Nabal knew who David was.

9And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David,

and ceased. **10**And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who *is* David? and who *is* the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. **11**Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?

As we learned the name “Nabal” in Hebrew means “foolish”. Many times, in the Bible we see names that are somewhat prophetic as to the nature of a person. Unfortunately for Nabal, his name nailed it.

Nabal in a way that few could probably master he insults not only all of David’s men and their integrity but is able in a few words insult the future King of Israel and his father.

Nabal then insults David by referring to him as a slave to Saul and that he had broken away from his master King Saul.

The final answer from Nabal, is NO!

It seems a bit like the days of the mafia when you had to pay protection money to the mob or get an unpleasant visit. But these times were of such a different nature than those we live in today. There was more bartering that went on than outright purchase with money. Protection was a rare commodity in this time and the people who lived far from any Government resources were often attacked by marauders or other nations. To have this type of

protection from David and his hundreds of soldiers was a rare gift and should be looked at like that. Nabal was able to keep his flocks safe because of David and his men.

12So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. 13And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

David had perhaps a glaring flaw like most of us do and that is reactive reasoning. The preferred method would be Godly or thoughtful reasoning. Seeking God's wisdom when faced with a slight or outright negative response from someone.

David did not seek God's council, he ordered his men to mount up, let's go kill Nabal. David selected 400 men, that should do the trick.

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14But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. 15But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: 16They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

This is always a bad sign that an employee goes around his employer and goes to where the real power lays and that is with either a board member or in this case the wife of the owner. In either case it is obvious the employees do not like their master/owner and knows that he is dishonest.

The slaves/employees explain what had happened with the men David had sent to Abigale's husband. It must have been a norm in this time that if someone comes to you and asks for some compensation for a valued action they had taken. Abigale must have known the outcome in treating the upcoming King in this manner and knows she has to react in order to save lives, even the life of her husband.

17 Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he *is such* a son of Belial, that a *man* cannot speak to him.

From Strong's Concordance

Pronunciation: beh-lee-yahl

Phonetic Spelling: (bel-e-yah'-al)

KJV: Belial, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked

NASB: worthless, wicked, base, destruction, rascally, ungodliness, worthless one”

Abigail Intercedes for Nabal

18 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready

dressed, and five measures of parched *corn*, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid *them* on asses.

It is unknown the value of such an array of food and provisions put together by Abigail, but time was of the essence. Somehow Abigail knew that when David heard of Nabal's response David would be swift with overwhelming force to repay this selfish man.

Abigail's goal was to reach David and his men before they brought death to her husband and workers.

19And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal.

Not telling her husband is a sign that she was aware of his selfishness about everything. It also revealed that she was aware of his inability to read the room or in this case the response for the upcoming King of Israel. She sent the gifts ahead of her so they would reach David first, then she would arrive and explain the response she was sending.

20And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

It would be a rare event indeed during this time for a woman to confront an army of men on their way to shed the blood of a man who had offended the leader of the Army. There are a few

examples in the Word such as Ester approach the King, and the wise woman of Able who negotiate with Joab, 2 Samuel 20:16

21Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this *fellow* hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *pertained* unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good. 22So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that *pertain* to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

This is a recounting of what set David off. We should note that David once again slid into reaction instead of reaching out to God first.

In David's anger he assembles his troops who are likewise offended and they drive off to extract justice for this slight. The term "any that pisseth against the wall." Is a reference to males in the employ of Nabal.

23And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, 24And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, *upon me let this iniquity be*: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. 25Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, *even* Nabal: for as his name *is*, so *is* he; Nabal *is* his name, and folly *is* with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

So, Abigail is on a mission to save her idiot husband, but probably more likely all his employees that had nothing to do with his slight of the upcoming King of Israel. She is doing everything she can to project a contrite and humbleness to David to assuage he and his men's anger. Abigail asks that this iniquity be upon her and asks David for a moment to explain. She herself calls her husband a fool just as his name declares. Her humble demeanor reflects that which our Lord Jesus Christ embodied.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Abigail uses a term “Belial”, from Strong's concordance:

“Transliteration: bliya`al

Pronunciation: beh-lee-yahl

Phonetic Spelling: (bel-e-yah'-al)

KJV: Belial, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked

NASB: worthless, wicked, base, destruction, rascally, ungodliness, worthless one”

Perhaps a marriage that has seen better days from the expressions she uses to describe Nabal.

26Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

Within the customs of this time, Nabal was going to die for his slight and with him his servants and employees. That would include innocent blood, and Abigail is trying to save David from that folly.

27And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

Considering that there are likely 400 men with David, it is likely that the amount of tribute would barely give each of them some small part. It is more the gesture than the actual gift that is given.

28I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee *all* thy days.

The proper application of kind words can turn aside an angry person.

29Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, *as out* of the middle of a sling.

This woman is not only intelligent but well versed in the politics of the day. She knows as like does all of Israel that Saul is pursuing David to kill him. It is also widely known that David has not nothing to Saul that would warrant such treatment. She declares

that David is walking with God, and to an Israelite that was the most important thing in their culture.

30And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; 31That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

Abigail could see what was coming and that is David becoming King of Israel. With that comes a self reflection that David must embrace. David will need to examine his own life and decide if there is anything he has done that did not honor God. Like most of us the list could be lengthy. However, in this case Abigail is trying to keep David from spilling innocent blood that could like haunt him later.

Her final request was that he remember her when he takes the reins of Israel's Kingdom.

32And David said to Abigail, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: 33And blessed *be* thy advice, and blessed *be* thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. 34For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left

unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

David still likely angry with Nabal, as a final venting recounts his mission to shed the blood of Nabal and all of his men. David realizes that his men are innocent and that would be huge blunder on his part. If he would have inquired of the Lord first, God would likely have told him that exact thing.

35So David received of her hand *that* which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

David thanks Abigail for her gifts and her advice, which he indeed listened to.

36And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart *was* merry within him, for he *was* very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. 37But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. 38And it came to pass about ten days *after*, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

God has a way of dealing with treachery from those who are not of His faithful. Nabal throws a big party and gets drunk. His wife does not tell him what she had done until the morning when he was likely good and hung over. When Abigail told Nabal of what

she had done to save him, and their house, his heart could not take it and he died. The Lord took his life.

David Marries Abigail

39And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, **Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.**

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

David would have killed Nabal in his rage and in doing so would have set the stage for many to claim he killed Nabal to have his wife as his own. Far better to allow God to deal with situations that we taking our own anger out on our enemies.

40And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. **41**And she arose, and bowed herself on *her* face to the earth, and said, Behold, *let* thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

Abigail has as a part of her genetic makeup the ability to be humble and contrite. The type of heart that God wants us to have. She declares that her position as wife of David would allow her to

wash the feet of his servants. A point made by Christ Himself when He washed the feet of this Apostles.

42And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.

43David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.

44But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

As we discussed last week, according to the interpretation of the Priests of this time, the King could have as many as 18 wives. Abigail became his second wife but moved in the position that Michal had occupied when first married to David.

Saul seems to have no limits as to how deep he will go to affect David's life. Giving David his daughter then taking her back and giving her to another man for political expediency.

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