

David Spares Saul's Life (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 24

- 1 When Saul returned from *pursuing the Philistines*, they told him, "Look, David *is* in the wilderness of En Gedi."
- 2 So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and he and his men went to search *for* David in the direction of the Rocks of the Mountain Goats.
- 3 He came to the sheep pens beside the road, and a cave *was* there. Then Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men *were* sitting in the innermost part of the cave.
- 4 And David's men said to him, "Look, today *is* the day about which Yahweh said to you, 'See, I am giving your enemy into your hand, and you can do to him whatever seems good to you.'" So David got up and secretly cut the hem of Saul's robe.
- 5 And then afterward David felt guilty, because he had cut the hem of Saul's robe.
- 6 He said to his men, "Far be it from me in Yahweh, that I do this thing to my lord, to Yahweh's anointed one, by stretching out my hand against him! For he *is* the anointed one of Yahweh."
- 7 So David rebuked his men with the words and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave, and he went on his way.
- 8 Then David got up afterward and went out of the cave and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked after him, David knelt down *with his* face to the ground and bowed down.
- 9 Then David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of people who say: 'Look, David *is* seeking to do you harm'?"
- 10 Look, this day your eyes have seen that Yahweh gave you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you. But I took pity on you and said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, because he *is* Yahweh's anointed one.'
- 11 Now, my father, see, yes, see, the hem of your robe in my hand! For when I cut the hem of your robe I did not kill you. Know and realize that there is no evil or rebellion in my hand. I did not sin against you, but you *are* hunting down my life to take it.
- 12 May Yahweh judge between me and you, and may Yahweh avenge me on you, but my hand will not be against you!
- 13 Just as the ancient proverb says, 'From the wicked, wickedness goes out,' but my hand will not be against you!
- 14 After whom did the king of Israel go out? After whom are you pursuing? After a dead dog? After one flea?
- 15 May Yahweh be *the* judge, and let him judge between me and you, and may he see and plead my case. May he vindicate me against you!"
- 16 When David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "*Is* this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.
- 17 Then he said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me the good, but I have repaid you the evil.
- 18 You have explained to me today that you have dealt well with me, how Yahweh delivered me into your hand but you did not kill me.
- 19 For a man has found his enemy but sent him on *his* way safely. Now may Yahweh reward you with good in return for this day, for what you have done for me.
- 20 So now then, look, I know that you will certainly be king and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.
- 21 So then, swear to me by Yahweh that you will not cut off my descendants after me and that you will not wipe out my name from my father's house."
- 22 So David swore *this on oath* to Saul, and Saul went to his house, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Mighty Warriors Join David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Chronicles 12:8–18

- 8 And from the Gadites, valiant mighty warriors, soldiers fit for war, expert with shield and spear, defected to David at the fortress toward the wilderness. And they had faces like lions *and were* swift as gazelles upon the mountains.
- 9 Ezer the chief, Obadiah second, Eliab third,
- 10 Mishmannah fourth, Jeremiah fifth,
- 11 Attai sixth, Eliel seventh,
- 12 Jehonan eighth, Elzabad ninth,
- 13 Jeremiah tenth, Macbannai eleventh.
- 14 These *were* the sons of Gad, leaders of the army. The smallest one *was* as a hundred, and the greatest as a thousand.
- 15 These *were* they who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it was filled over its banks. And they put to flight all *who were* in the valley to the east and to the west.
- 16 And some of the sons of Benjamin and *from* Judah came to the fortress, to David.
- 17 And David went out to meet them and answered and said to them, "If you come in peace to me, to help me, my heart will be joined with you, but if *you come* to betray me to my adversaries, although *there is* no wrong on my hands, may the God of our fathers see and pass judgment."
- 18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the thirty *who said*: "*We are yours*, O David! And *we are* with you, O son of Jesse! Peace! Peace to you, and peace to those who help you, for your God helps you." So David appointed them as heads of the troops.

David and Abigail (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)**1 Samuel 25****The Death of Samuel**

1 Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him. They buried him at his house at Ramah. Then David got up and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

Nabal and Abigail

2 Now there was a man in Maon, whose business *was* in Carmel. The man was very rich and owned three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. Now the shearing of his sheep *was taking place* in Carmel.

3 The name of the man *was* Nabal, and the name of his wife *was* Abigail. Now the woman *was* wise and beautiful, but the man *was* stubborn and mean, and he *was* as his heart.

Nabal Treats David's Men With Contempt

4 David heard in the wilderness that Nabal *was* shearing his sheep.

5 So David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel and go to Nabal; you will greet him in my name.

6 Then you must say to him, '*Long life to you*, and may it go well with you, with your house, and with all that is yours.

7 Now I have heard that you have shearers. Now while your shepherds *were* with us, we did not mistreat them, and nothing of theirs *was* missing, all the days they were in Carmel.

8 Ask your servants and they will tell you! Let the young men find favor in your eyes because we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have on hand for your servants and for your son David."

9 So David's young men came and they spoke all these words to Nabal in the name of David. Then they waited.

10 But Nabal answered David's servants and said, "Who *is* David? And who *is* the son of Jesse? Today, *there* are many servants breaking away from the presence of their masters.

11 Should I take my bread and my water and my meat which I have slaughtered for my shearers and give *it* to men whom I do not know where they *are* from?

David is Furious

12 So David's young men turned on their way and returned and came and told him according to all these words.

13 Then David said to his men, "Each man strap on his sword!" So each one strapped on his sword, and David also strapped on his sword. About four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

Nabal's Servants Tell Abigail

14 But a young man of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the desert to greet our master, but he addressed them angrily,

15 even though the men *were* very good to us; we were not mistreated and did not miss anything all the days we went about with them while we were in the field.

16 They were a wall to us both night and day, all the days we were with them keeping the sheep.

17 And so then, know and consider what you should do, for evil has been decided against our master and against all his household, and he *is such* a wicked man, nobody can reason with him!"

Abigail Intervenes

18 Then Abigail quickly took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five prepared sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred raisin cakes, and two hundred fig cakes, and she put *them* on the donkeys.

19 Then she said to her servants, "Go ahead before me; look, I am coming after you," but she did not tell her husband Nabal.

20 And then, *as she was* riding on the donkey and *was* going down the ravine of the mountain, David and his men *were* coming down to meet her, and she met them.

21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I guarded all that this fellow had in the desert. And nothing was missed of all that *was* his, but he returned evil against me in place of good!

22 May God severely punish the enemies of David and again do thus if I leave behind anything that is his until the morning, *not even* one male!"

23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell on her face before David's anger, and she bowed down to the ground.

24 She fell at his feet and said, "On me, my lord, *be* the guilt! Please let your female servant speak to you personally! Hear the words of your female servant!

25 Please do not let my lord set his heart against this worthless man, Nabal; for as his name, so *is* he. Nabal *is* his name, and stupidity *is* with him! But I, your female servant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

26 So then, my lord, as Yahweh lives and as your soul lives, since Yahweh restrained you from bloodguilt by taking matters into your own hand, so then, may your enemies be like Nabal, even those who seek to do my lord harm.

27 So then, this gift which your female servant has brought to my lord, may it be given to the young men who follow my lord.
 28 Please forgive the transgression of your female servant, because Yahweh will certainly make a lasting house for my lord, because my lord *is* fighting the battles of Yahweh, and evil will not be found in you as long as you live.
 29 Should a man arise to pursue you and to seek your life, may the life of my lord be wrapped in the pouch of the living with Yahweh your God. But as for the life of your enemy, he will sling it from within the pocket of the sling!
 30 And then when Yahweh has done for my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you as leader over Israel,
 31 then this will not be an obstacle for you or a stumbling block of conscience for my lord *either* by the shedding of blood without cause or by my lord taking matters into his own hands. And when Yahweh does good to my lord, then remember your female servant.”
 32 Then David said to Abigail, “Blessed be Yahweh the God of Israel who has sent you this day to meet me!
 33 And blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you who have prevented me this day from bloodguilt and *from* delivering myself by my own hand.
 34 But as Yahweh lives, the God of Israel who has prevented me from harming you, if you had not hurried and come to meet me, surely there would not have been one male left alive for Nabal by the light of morning!”
 35 Then David took from her hand what she had brought for him, and he said to her, “Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to your voice, and I have granted your request.”

God Strikes Nabal

36 Then Abigail went to Nabal, and look, he was holding a feast in his house like the feast of the king. Nabal was enjoying himself, and he *was* very drunk, so she did not tell him a thing, nothing at all, until the light of morning.
 37 And then in the morning when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these words. Then his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.
 38 And then, about ten days later, Yahweh struck Nabal and he died.

David Marries Abigail

39 When David heard that Nabal had died, he said, “Blessed be Yahweh who has vindicated the case of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and he has kept back his servant from evil; but Yahweh has returned the evil of Nabal on his *own* head.” Then David sent and spoke with Abigail to take her for his wife.
 40 So the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, and they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you to take you for his wife.”
 41 She got up and bowed down *with* her face to the ground and said, “Here is your female servant, as a slave to wash the feet of my lord’s servants.”
 42 Then Abigail quickly got up and rode on the donkey, *along with* five of her maidservants who attended her, and she went after the messengers of David and became his wife.
 43 David had also taken Ahinoam from Jezreel, and both of them became his wives.
 44 (Now Saul had given his daughter Michal, David’s wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who *was* from Gallim.)

David Again Spares Saul’s Life (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 26

The Ziphites Betray David a Second Time

1 The Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “*Is* not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah opposite Jeshimon?”
 2 Then Saul got up and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, and three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.
 3a Now Saul was on the hill of Hakilah, which *is* opposite Jeshimon by the road, but David was staying in the wilderness.

David Sneaks Into Saul’s Camp

3b When he realized that Saul had come to the wilderness after him,
 4 David sent spies, and he learned that Saul had come for certain.
 5 Then David got up and came to the place where Saul had encamped, and David saw the place where Saul *was* lying down, as well as Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. (Now Saul *was* lying in the encampment, and the army *was* encamping around him.)
 6 David answered and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah the brother of Joab, saying, “Who will go down with me to Saul, in the camp?” And Abishai said, “I will go down with you.”
 7 So David and Abishai came to the army *by* night, and there was Saul lying asleep in the encampment with his spear thrust into the ground near his head, and Abner and the army *were* lying all around him.
 8 Then Abishai said to David, “God has handed over your enemy into your hand today! So then, please let me pin him to the ground

with the spear one time, and I will not strike him twice.”

9 But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him! For who has stretched out his hand against Yahweh’s anointed one and remained blameless?”

10 And David said, “As Yahweh lives, certainly Yahweh will strike him, or his day will come and he will die, or he will go down in the battle and perish.

11 Yahweh forbid me from stretching out my hand against Yahweh’s anointed one! So then, please take the spear that *is* near his head and the jar of water, and let us go.”

12 So David took the spear and the jar of water from *near* Saul’s head, and they went *away*. No one saw, no one knew, and no one awakened, for all of them *were* sleeping because a deep sleep of Yahweh had fallen upon them.

David Confronts Abner and Saul

13 Then David went to the other side and stood on the top of the hill at a distance; the distance *was* great between them.

14 David called out to the army and to Abner the son of Ner, “Will you not answer, Abner?” And Abner answered and said, “Who *are* you *that* you call to the king?”

15 So David said to Abner, “*Are* you not a man? And who *is* like you in Israel? Why did you not keep watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came to destroy your lord the king.

16 This thing that you have done *is* not good. As Yahweh lives, surely you people deserve to die since you have not kept watch over your lord, over Yahweh’s anointed one! So then, see where the king’s spear *is* and the jar of water that *was* near his head!”

17 Then Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “*Is* this your voice, my son David?” And David said, “*It is* my voice, my lord the king.”

18 Then he said, “Why *is* my lord pursuing after his servant? For what have I done? And what evil *is* in my hand?”

19 And so then, please let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant: If Yahweh has incited you against me, may he delight in an offering; but if it is mortals, *may* they be accursed before Yahweh, for they have driven me away today from sharing in the inheritance of Yahweh, saying, ‘Go, serve other gods!’

20 And so then, do not let my blood fall to the ground away from the presence of Yahweh, for the king of Israel has gone out to seek a single flea, as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”

Saul’s Last Words to David

21 Then Saul said, “I have sinned! Come back, David my son, for I will not harm you again, because my life *was* precious in your eyes this day. Look, I have acted like a fool and have made a terrible mistake.”

22 David answered and said, “Here is the king’s spear; let one of the young men come over and take it.

23 Yahweh repays to each *one* his righteousness and his faithfulness, for Yahweh gave you into my hand today, but I was not willing to stretch out my hand against Yahweh’s anointed.

24 Look, as your life was precious in my eyes this day, may my life be great in the eyes of Yahweh, and may he rescue me from all trouble.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will not only do many things, but also will always succeed!” Then David went on his way and Saul returned to his place.

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