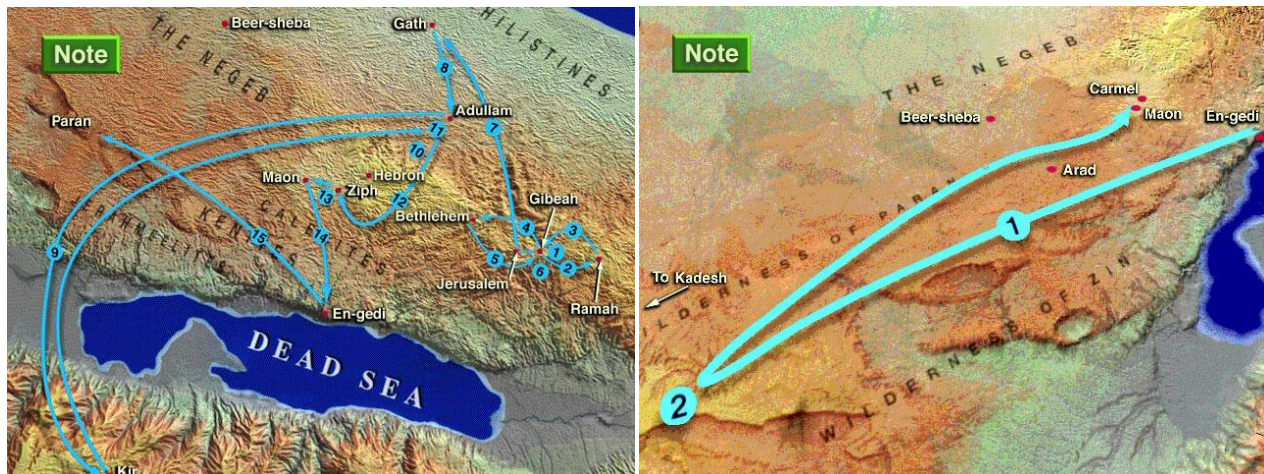


# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## Nabal and Abigail

- Following the events at Engedi, the prophet Samuel died [1 Sam 25:1].
  - Samuel was loved and respected by all of Israel who mourned his death.
  - Samuel had been a very important person in the life of David.
  - Upon learning of Samuel's death, David fled to Paran hoping to find safety.



- There was a man from Maon named Nabal, a Calebite, who was quite rich [1 Sam 25:2-3].
  - Nabal had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats (for comparison, Job had 7,000 sheep [Job 1:3]).
  - He was a descendant of Caleb – a Gentile adopted into the tribe of Judah [Josh 15:13 cf. Num 32:12].
  - Nabal (נָבָל) in the Hebrew means “foolish” or “senseless” – a very appropriate name.
  - His wife is Abigail, an intelligent (understanding) and beautiful woman.
  - Abigail (אַבְיָגַיִל) in the Hebrew means “joyful” or “rejoicing” – also a very appropriate name.
  - Nabal was quite cruel and evil in his dealings with others.
- When David had been in Maon [1 Sam 23:24] he and his men had been respectful toward Nabal, so David sent men to ask Nabal for help (provisions) [1 Sam 25:4-8].
  - Sheep-shearing was a joyful time for shepherds and was usually associated with feasts.
  - David referred to himself as “your son David” showing humility in asking Nabal for help.
- When Nabal heard David's request, he reacted with utter contempt [1 Sam 25:9-11].
  - Nabal referred to David as “the son of Jesse” as an intentional insult, unwilling to recognize him as the Lord's anointed.
  - Nabal viewed David as a rebel and an outlaw and he was unwilling to acknowledge that David and his men had been a blessing to him.

- David completely overreacted to Nabal's refusal to help and planned to attack Nabal and get what he wanted [1 Sam 25:12-13].
  - David had humbly asked for provisions, but was now reacting in anger.
  - David wasn't merely going to forcibly take provisions from Nabal – he intended to kill every male in Nabal's household [1 Sam 25:21-22].
- One of Nabal's servants made a desperate appeal to Abigail to try to prevent the impending attack [1 Sam 25:14-17].
  - He testified to the way that God had blessed the shepherds through David and his men by providing protection while they tended the sheep.
  - One of the characteristics of fools like Nabal is that they will not listen to anyone.
- Abigail responded by gathering provisions for David and his men [1 Sam 25:18-20].
  - Abigail was responding to David's request in grace, but was also trying to save Nabal's life.
  - If she had told Nabal what she was doing, he would almost certainly have stopped her.
  - This was simultaneously an act of humility and courage in meeting David's approaching army.
- When Abigail met David she humbly asked him to grant forgiveness [1 Sam 25:23-31].
  - Abigail immediately bowed before David showing her humility and respect for the Lord's anointed.
  - Abigail took the blame for Nabal's refusal stating that she had not seen David's men.
  - Abigail asked David to accept the provisions from her and forgive her (for what Nabal had done).
  - Abigail recognized the glories of David's coming kingdom and did not want David avenging himself against Nabal to be a blemish on his record.
  - Abigail asked David to remember her when God blessed him as king of Israel.
- David responded to Abigail's humble request and praised God for sending her to stop him from making a huge mistake [1 Sam 25:32-35].
- When Nabal learned that he had narrowly escaped an almost certain death at the hand of David, he suffered a heart attack and died ten days later [1 Sam 25:36-38].
- When David learned of Nabal's death he was thankful that Nabal had received a just reward for his evil and that the Lord had kept David from committing evil [1 Sam 25:39a].
- David was so taken by Abigail's beauty (inner and outer) that he wasted no time in asking her to be his wife [1 Sam 25:39b-42].
- At the end of 1 Samuel 25 we have two footnotes regarding David's polygamy.
  - David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel (in Judah) [1 Sam 25:43].
  - Saul's daughter Michal, who had been married to David, was given to another man [1 Sam 25:44].