

Chapter 25

v.1 “The loss of [Samuel’s] leadership was mourned much like that of other prominent figures in Israel’s past history, including Jacob (Gen 50.10), Aaron (Num 20.29) and Moses (Deut 34.8).” (NIV)

“Nabal, the ‘fool’, lived near Carmel, where Saul had erected a monument in his own honor (see 15.12) and had committed the act that led to his rejection (see 15.26).” (NIV)

v.2 “‘Sheepshearing’ was a time of work and also festivity.” (McCarter)

v.3 “The contrast between Nabal and his wife is striking...Abigail’s qualities, intelligence and beauty, are precisely those of the man who the audience may already suspect will become her new husband....Abigail is as well matched with David as she is mismatched with Nabal.” (McCarter)

v.7 “This species of ‘protection money’ is regularly levied at the present day by the Bedouins living on the borders of the desert and the cultivated land. In return for gifts, they guarantee the protection of life and property in these notoriously insecure districts.” (Missler)

v.10 “David’s retinue included many runaway slaves, as well as men who had abandoned the service of Saul. Nabal looked upon David as a mere runaway slave.” (Missler)

v.17 Harm is determined against our master and against all his house. The household suffers for the actions of its head.

“no one can talk to him. In this way...Nabal is like Saul.” (NIV)

v.21 “he has repaid me with evil instead of goodness. cf. Prov 17.13: ‘As for him who repays with evil instead of goodness, evil shall not depart from his house?’” (McCarter)

v.22 “of all he has who piss against a wall. That is, of all the men and boys of his family and household. The expression occurs elsewhere in the same stereotyped formula, always with reference to the extermination of the male members of a family.... It is well, then, that with David in this mood the intercessor from Nabal’s household is a woman!” (McCarter)

v.26 let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. This is her husband she is talking about!

v.30 the Lord...has appointed you prince over Israel. Abigail knows as well.

v.31 “blood. The danger in the present case is not that David might act in an unrighteous cause, but that he might usurp the prerogative of God by gaining ‘victory by his own hand.’ ...and thus make himself master of his fate, instead of letting it be guided by the Lord.” (McCarter)

v.32 “who has sent you. David recognizes the providential leading of the Lord in his encounter with Abigail.” (NIV)

“Abigail’s prudent action prevents David from using his power as leader for personal vengeance (the very thing Saul was doing). In this way the Lord (who avenged his servant) keeps David’s sword clean, teaching him a lesson he does not forget.” (NIV)

Vengeance is mine (Romans 12.19; cf. Deut 32.35)

v.43-44 “Ahinoam. David’s first wife (see 27.3; 30.5; 2 Sam 2.2) and mother of his first son, Amnon (see 2 Sam 3.2).” (NIV)

“By taking Mical away Saul must have hoped to weaken David’s claims to the throne of Israel.” (McCarter).

“Abigail’s marriage to David provides him with a wise and worthy wife, while Saul gives away David’s wife Michal to another, illustrating how the Lord counters every move Saul makes against David.” (NIV)

“David has lost his newly acquired base of power in consequence not only of his exile from Gibeah, where he had become a popular hero, but also...the loss of his royal-blooded wife, Michael. He has been required to return to his homeland. Now we find him marrying the widow of a high-ranking member of the clan that controlled Hebron as well as another woman from nearby Jezreel. He is becoming a prominent figure in the heartland of Judah.” (McCarter)

Chapter 26

v.2 “three thousand. Apparently Saul’s standing army.” (NIV)

v.5 “Abner. Saul’s cousin (see 14.50).” (NIV)

v.6 “Abishai son of Zeruah, Joab’s brother. Zeruah was an older sister of David (1 Chr 2.16), so Abishai and Joab [and their brother Asahel (2 Sam 2.18)] were David’s nephews. Joab would long serve as the commander of his army.” (NIV)

v.8 “Saul had previously attempted to transfix David with his javelin. Now Abishai wanted to transfix Saul with his spear. But David refused to let him touch the Lord’s anointed. Vengeance was in the hands of the Lord.” (Missler)

v.9 “Saul as king and anointed of Yahweh is sacrosanct and not to be physically defiled.... The main concern of our narrative is to demonstrate David’s innocence with particular regard to Saul’s death.” (McCarter)

v.12 a deep sleep from the LORD. Supernatural.

v.19 “the LORD’s inheritance...Go, serve other gods. In their view, to be expelled from the Lord’s land was to be separate from the Lord’s sanctuary (an Old Testament form of excommunication) and left too serve the gods of whatever land one may settle in (see Joshua 22.24-27).” (NIV)

“When Saul and David part company at the end of this episode, it is for the last time.” (McCarter)