

~NABAL (115)

(Na'bal) [Senseless, Stupid]

- A wealthy Maonite sheep owner who pastured and sheared his flocks in Carmel of Judah. **Nabal** was also known as a Calebite, that is, a descendant of Caleb.
- Few Bible characters are so contemptuously described as is **Nabal**. He was harsh and bad in his practices, he is too much of a good-for-nothing fellow, son of Belial, to speak to him, he repays evil in return for good, senselessness is with him.
- Now there was a man in Maon, and his work was in Carmel. And the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats, and he came to be engaged in shearing his sheep at Carmel. (1 Samuel 25:2)
- And the man's name was **Nabal**, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the wife was good in discretion and beautiful in form, but the husband was harsh and bad in his practices, and he was a Calebite. (1 Samuel 25:3)
- And now know and see what you are going to do, for calamity has been determined against our master and against all his house, as he is too much of a good-for-nothing fellow to speak to him. (1 Samuel 25:17)
- As for David, he had said; It was altogether for disappointment that I guarded everything that belongs to this fellow in the wilderness and not a single thing of all that belongs to him showed up missing, and yet he repays me evil in return for good. (1 Samuel 25:21)
- Please, do not let my lord set his heart upon this good-for-nothing man **Nabal**, for, as his name is, so is he. **Nabal** is his name, and senselessness is with him. As for me your slave girl, I did not see my lords young men that you had sent. (1 Samuel 25:25)
- David's men had protected **Nabal's** flocks of 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats from marauding bands. After showing this kindness and not being guilty of any misappropriation, David requested **Nabal** to

provide some material assistance for him and his men at shearing time, a traditional time of feasting and hospitality.

- But **Nabal** screamed rebukes at David's messengers and sent them away empty-handed. **Nabal's** own men feared David's reaction but did not feel free to speak to **Nabal** about the matter. One of them, however, told **Nabal's** wife Abigail.

- As David approached, intending to slay **Nabal**, Abigail met him with generous gifts of food and drink and persuaded him not to become guilty of shedding her husband's blood.

- On her return home, she found **Nabal** as drunk as could be, so waited until the next morning to tell him of her encounter with David and how near death he had caused them all to come.

- Thereupon, Nabal's heart came to be dead inside him, and he himself became as a stone, perhaps indicating some type of paralysis or else referring to the effect on **Nabal's** inner emotions.

- Yehowah will strike you with madness and loss of sight and bewilderment of heart. (**Deuteronomy 28:28**)

- My heart has been struck just like vegetation and is dried up, for I have forgotten to eat my food. (**Psalms 102:4**)

- And my spirit faints away within me, in the midst of me my heart shows itself numbed. (**Psalms 143:4**)

- About ten days later **Nabal** was struck dead by Yehowah.

- David then took the sensible and courageous Abigail as his wife.

- And David got to hear that **Nabal** had died, and so he said; Blessed be Yehowah, who has conducted the legal case of my reproach to free me from **Nabal's** hand and has kept his servant back from badness, and the badness of **Nabal** Yehowah has turned back upon his own head! And David proceeded to send and propose to Abigail to take her as his wife. (**1 Samuel 25:39**)

- So David's servants came to Abigail at Carmel and spoke to her, saying; David himself has sent us to you to take you as his wife. (**1 Samuel 25:40**)

- **Immediately she rose up and bowed with her face to the earth and said; Here is your slave girl as a maidservant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord. (1 Samuel 25:41)**
- **Then Abigail hastened and rose up and went riding on the ass with five maids of hers walking behind her, and she went accompanying the messengers of David and then became his wife. (1 Samuel 25:42)**
- **And David continued to dwell with Achish in Gath, he and his men, each one with his household, David and his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail, **Nabal's** wife, the Carmelitess. (1 Samuel 27:3)**
- **And David's two wives had been carried off captive, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the wife of **Nabal** the Carmelite. (1 Samuel 30:5)**
- **Accordingly David went up there and also his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the wife of **Nabal** the Carmelite. (2 Samuel 2:2)**
- **And his second was Chileab by Abigail the wife of **Nabal** the Carmelite, and the third was Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur. (2 Samuel 3:3)**