

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-THREE

by Sandy Harber

"... 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." I Samuel 25:28b

Abigail prophetically assures David that his family line ("house") will endure. Many years later, after David has been crowned king of all Israel, David will move the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. Remember, the ark of the covenant was housed in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle. God Himself came to dwell with His people, residing between the cherubim on the Mercy Seat (lid of the ark). It was David's desire to build a house for God to dwell in (that is, move the ark of the covenant to a permanent dwelling).

God spoke to David about his desire to build this temple. Because he was a man of war, God did not want David to build the temple. That honor would go to David's son, Solomon. But God promised David that his kingdom and throne would last forever. These unconditional promises are known as the Davidic Covenant (II Sam. 7:12-16).

The Davidic Covenant promised David that his physical family - his descendants - would continue forever. His political kingdom, Israel, would last forever. And, his descendants would sit on the throne of his kingdom forever. Jesus Christ, David's physical descendant, will fulfill these promises when He sits on His throne in the Millennial Temple, reigning over the earth for 1,000 years.

Abigail prophesied that God would establish David's house before he had ascended the throne. God had revealed this promise to her while David was still a fugitive, running from King Saul.

God makes this promise, said Abigail, because David: 1) fights the Lord's battles; and, 2) has been free of evil all his life. David was a fierce warrior who faced the enemies of Israel in the name of His Lord (I Sam. 7:45). It is ironic that David's success on the battlefield is the very reason God denied his earnest wish to build His Lord a temple.

Abigail's pronouncement that no evil had ever been found in David does not mean he was without sin. No one ever born, except Jesus Christ, has been sinless (Rom. 3:23). But God has provided a remedy for sin, the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. So that everyone who has accepted Jesus as Savior stands before God as sinless as Jesus Himself (Eph. 1:7; II Cor. 5:21).

David, having been born before Jesus died on the cross, was saved by faith (just as we are) but he showed his faith by obedience to God's Word so far as it had been given (that is, the Law of Moses). Just like his ancestor Abraham, God considered David righteous because of his faith (Gal. 3:6).

God has a plan for each of us, just as He did for David. God made wonderful promises to David. He blessed him and raised him from a shepherd to a king. But that doesn't mean that he had an easy life. David was anointed by Samuel when he was 17 years old, but he wasn't crowned king until he was 30. Most of the intervening 13 years he spent as a fugitive, running and hiding from Saul. And when he was crowned initially he was only king over the tribe of Judah. It was another 7 years before he became king over all Israel. David's later years were marred by family strife.

God has not promised any of us an easy life. But He has promised to be with us through good times and bad. He's given us a Guide, Teacher, and Counselor in the Holy Spirit. We have the tools we need to live a life that is pleasing to Him. We just have to want to please Him.

"These things I command you, that ye love one another." John 15:17