

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### ABIGAIL: LESSON FIVE

by Sandy Harber

**"And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast." I Sam. 25:6**

David instructed his men on how they should address this wealthy sheep owner. Nabal was described as a man who lives "in prosperity" according to the KJV. He would be used to eating the best foods, wearing the nicest clothes, living in a large house with many servants. Nabal was probably used to people treating him with respect. His servants would obey his command immediately. Nabal was used to the best in life.

David's soldiers were told to greet Nabal in the usual friendly manner, wishing him "peace." The Hebrew word translated "peace" here is "shalom." Shalom conveys the idea of completeness or wellness. It means to be safe in body, mind, and estate. It's a friendly greeting wishing health and prosperity on the recipient.

The soldiers extend this well-wishing of peace to those living in Nabal's house, that is, his family and servants, and to all that belongs to him. It is a comprehensive greeting that hopes for health and prosperity on Nabal, his family, and his estate. And this friendly greeting comes from the man God commanded the Prophet Samuel to anoint as the next King of Israel.

David offered peace - health and prosperity - to Nabal's house. God offers peace, too. First and foremost God offers peace to His enemies. A cessation of hostilities. Sinful man is an enemy of a holy God. But God provided a remedy for sin in the form of a cross. And He nailed His Son to that cross so that He could be at peace with man (Rom. 5:10-12).

The peace that comes from the forgiveness of sin is just one form that the peace of God takes. This peace is like a treaty that declares the end of hostilities. The two opposing parties - God and man - are now able to enjoy fellowship one with another (I John 1:6-9).

Once we belong to the family of God through redemption by the blood of Jesus, there is another type of peace that is promised to us. This peace comes from Jesus, Who said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27).

The human Jesus that His disciples saw every day was about to return physically to heaven. While His presence would still remain everywhere because He is the omnipresent God, His physical body would no longer be seen on earth. But the Prince of Peace promised to leave "My peace." What is Jesus' peace? Jesus Himself as Jehovah Shalom, the Lord my Peace. Jesus' presence would dwell in the hearts of redeemed men via the Holy Spirit.

How does the peace of Jesus manifest itself? By calming our minds and hearts in times of anxiety, grief, fear, etc. (Phil 4:7). When we belong to God we have nothing to fear. God is in control. Whatever happens is His will. Understanding this truth calms the spirit. We need not worry or fear because we are in His hands.

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
Romans 5:1*