

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-FOUR

by Sandy Harber

"Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound up in the bundle of life with the Lord thy God: and the souls of thine enemies, they shall be slung out, as out of the middle of a sling." I Samuel 25:29

Abigail had just declared that no evil had been found in David his whole life (v. 28) but in spite of that a man pursued him with the intention of killing him. Abigail was referring to King Saul, of course. She clearly knew that Saul and his army hunted David. Probably the whole country knew it. Nabal certainly did (v. 10) and sided with King Saul. Abigail, on the other hand, knew that David was innocent of wrong doing and Saul's pursuit was due to his jealousy.

But Abigail prophesied a good outcome for David. God Himself will preserve David's life. To keep him in the "bundle" of life means to keep him in the society or community of the living. Saul sought to kill David, but God intended to keep him among (in the bundle of) the living.

David might have written Psalm 91 based on Abigail's assurance of his security in the Lord's hands. He did indeed "dwell in the secret place of the Most High," and his abode was "under the shadow of the almighty" (v.1). David trusted God, Who was his "refuge" and "fortress" (v. 2).

David's security in the Lord goes beyond this life. Yes, God would protect him from Saul's army and preserve his life so that he could become king of Israel. But, David's life was bound in the community (bundle) of life with the Lord. David will live eternally with his God.

That same community of eternal life is offered to us. We can live forever with God simply by accepting Jesus as our Savior (Jn. 3:16). David ended his well beloved Psalm 23 by stating, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (v. 6). But David's enemies did not have that same security. Abigail explained that, while God preserved David within the society of the living, his enemies would be flung out of that society like a stone out of a sling. That is, David's enemies would be hurled out of the community of the living.

David was an expert with the slingshot. He used one to defeat an enemy that tormented his people: Goliath (I Sam. 17:49). Abigail used the slingshot illustration to get across her point that God would take care of David's enemies. While David lived he would see the death of those that sought to kill him (II Sam. 1:1-4).

It's a tribute to the kind of man David was that he did not rejoice over the death of Saul. Rather, he rent his clothes, mourned, and wept when he heard the news (II Sam. 1:11-12). Saul regarded David as an enemy because he knew God had chosen David to be king over Israel. He tried to thwart the will of God by killing David, but failed.

David, on the other hand, did not consider Saul his enemy. While he was given several opportunities to kill Saul David refused to harm him. David viewed Saul as a man anointed by God to be king and he respected that. His focus was on God. Had his focus been on himself David would have seen Saul as an enemy bent on killing him and he would have responded in kind.

While we don't have someone relentlessly pursuing us attempting to take our lives, we do face different challenges day by day. Nor do we have an Abigail to prophesy the outcome for us. But we do have the whole of God's Word where we can find the answers to our questions.

And we have the same assurance David had that we are part of that community that will live eternally with God. Our life on earth is brief compared to the life that awaits us in eternity. The sorrows we have now will be turned into rejoicing.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Psalm 126:5