

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### ABIGAIL: LESSON ONE

by Sandy Harber

**"And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran." I Sam. 25:1**

The story of Abigail is recorded in I Samuel 25. Her meeting with David occurs during a time when he is hiding from King Saul. At the end of chapter 24 King Saul admits that he knows David will be king of Israel (v. 20) and extracts a promise from him that he will not harm Saul's family when he comes to power (vv 21-22).

Chapter 25 begins with the death of Samuel. Samuel was the last judge of Israel. The people did not want Samuel's sons to succeed him. Instead, they wanted to be like all the heathen nations around them and be ruled by a king (I Sam. 8:4-5).

Samuel transitioned then to king-maker. He anointed Saul the first king of Israel (I Sam. 10:1). When God rejected Saul because of his disobedience, Samuel anointed the second king, David (I Sam 16:13).

Samuel was a friend and mentor to David. He protected him from King Saul (I Sam. 19:18). He gave the young fugitive good advice and counsel. David must have felt as though he had lost a security blanket, a source of strength and wisdom.

All of the people of Israel mourned Samuel. But David did not dare attend the funeral. Instead he fled to the wilderness of Paran 100 miles away. He needed to take stock and determine his next move. Saul's pursuit was on again, off again so David could not afford to let down his guard and rest.

It is a blessing when God brings into our lives a mentor, an older Christian whose advice and counsel leads us in the right path. Just as He uses parents to train up a child, so He uses mature Christians to educate, guide, and support the younger Christians.

In time, we become the mentors to a younger generation of Christians. Those lessons we learned the hard way, in the midst of our own trials, we will pass on to others. God brings a double benefit out of our trials. First, we grow spiritually as God leads us through our adverse circumstances, giving us the opportunity to trust Him and gain wisdom through suffering. And, second, we pass on what we have learned so that others may navigate their own similar trials empowered by the advice and counsel of one who has already been there and done that.

*"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But, let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect, and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4*