

Chapter 25

Samuel dieth and is mourned. 3. Daid requestng, 10. and not obtaining victuals of Nabal, 13. threatneth to kil him. 14. But his wife Abigail prudently preuenteth the reuenge, 18. by fendng victuals, 23. and geung good worde. 37. Al which when Nabal vnderstandeth, he fainteth, and after tenne dayes dieth. 39. Daid marieth Abigail: 43. also Achinoam: 44. and his wife Michol is geuen to an other.

And Samuel died, and al Ifrael was gathered together, and they mourned for him, and buried him in his houfe in Ramatha. And Daid rifing went downe into the defert of Pharan. ² And there was a certaine man in the wildernes of Maon, and his poffeffion in Carmel, and that man was excedng great: and he had three thoufand sheepe, & a thoufand goates: and it chanced that his flocke was shorne in Carmel. ³ And the name of that man was Nabal: and the name of his wife Abigail. And that woman was very wife and beutiful: moreouer her hufband hard, and very il, and malicious: and he was of the kindred of Caleb. ⁴ When Daid therefore heard in the defert, that Nabal sheared his flocke, ⁵ he fent tenne yong men, and fayd to them: Goe vp into Carmel, and you shal come to Nabal, and shal falute him in my name peaceably. ⁶ And you shal fay: Peace be to my brethren, and to thee, and peace to thy houfe, and to al whatfoeuer thou haft be peace. ⁷ I haue heard, that thy shephards which were with vs in the defert did sheare. We haue neuer molefted them, neither hath ought beene wanting to them at any time of the flocke, al the time that they were with vs in Carmel. ⁸ Aske thy feruantes, and they wil tel thee. Now therefore let thy feruantes finde grace in thyne eies: for we are come in a good day, whatfoeuer thy hand shal finde, geue thy feruantes, and thy fonne Daid. ⁹ And when Daids feruantes were come, they fpoke to Nabal al thefe wordes in Daids name: and fo held their peace. ¹⁰ But Nabal anfwerng the feruantes of Daid, faid: Who is Daid?

and what is the fonne of Ifai? There are feruantes multiplied now a daies which flee from their mafters. ¹¹ Shal I then take my breades, and my waters, and the flesh of my cattel, which I haue killed for my shearers, and geue to men whom I know not whence they are? ¹² Therefore the feruantes of Daudid returned by their way, and returning came and told him al the wordes that he had faid. ¹³ Then fayd Daudid to his feruantes: Euery man gird him with his fworde. And they were euery one girded with their fwordes. And Daudid alfo was girded with his fworde: and there folowed Daudid about foure hundred men: moreouer two hundred remayned at the baggage. ¹⁴ But to Abigail the wife of Nabal one of their feruantes told, faying: Behold Daudid hath fent meffengers from the defert, to bleffe our maifter, & he difdayned them: ¹⁵ Thefe men were good ynough to vs, and not trubefome: neither did euer any thing perish al the time, that we haue conuerft with them in the defert: ¹⁶ they were in fteed of a wal to vs both in the day and in the night, al the dayes that we fed the flockes with them. ¹⁷ Wherefore confider, & thinke what thou haft to doe, for ^a)malice is accomplifhed againft thy hufband, and againft thy houfe, and he is the fonne of Belial, fo that no man can fpeake to him. ¹⁸ Abigail therefore made haft, and tooke two hundred loaues, and two bottels of wine, and fiue muttons ready dreft, and fiue meafures of polent, and a hundred branches of rayfens, and two hundred mafes of drie figges, and laid them vpon affes: ¹⁹ and faid to her feruantes: Goe before me: loe, I wil folow you at your backe: but fhe told not her hufband Nabal. ²⁰ When fhe therefore had gotten vpon an affe, and came downe to the foote of the mountaine, Daudid and his men came downe meeting her, whom fhe alfo mette. ²¹ And Daudid faid: In vaine veryly haue I preferued al thinges that were this mans in the defert, and there perifhed nothing of al that pertained to him:

^a Not a malicious mind, fuch as Saul bore vniuftly againft Daudid; but punifhmēt is decreed againft Nabal, for not only denying a reafonable requeft, but alfo for fo reprochful an anfwer.

and he hath rendred me ^{a)}euil for good. ²² Thefe thinges doe God to the enemies of Dauid, and thefe thinges adde he, if I fhall leaue of al thinges that pertaine to him vntil morning, any thing piffing againft the wal. ²³ And when Abigail had feene Dauid, ſhe made haft, and light from her affe, and fel downe before Dauid vpon her face, and adored vpon the earth, ²⁴ and fel at his feete, and fayd: In me my lord be this iniquitie: let thy handmayde ſpeake I befech thee in thine eares: and heare the wordes of thy feruant. ²⁵ Let not my lord the king I pray thee, fet his hart vpon this naughtie man Nabal: becaufe according to his name, he is a foole, and follie is with him: but I thy handmaide ſawe not thy feruantes my lord, whom thou didft fend. ²⁶ Now therefore my lord, our Lord liueth, and thy foule liueth, who hath ſtayed thee that thou ſhouldeſt not come vnto blood, and hath ſaued thy hand to thee: and now be thine enemies as Nabal, and they that ſeeke euil to my lord. ²⁷ Wherefore receiue this benediction, which thy handmaide hath brought to thee my lord: and geue to thy feruantes that folow thee my lord. ²⁸ Take away the iniquitie of thy handmaide: for our Lord making wil make to my lord a faithful houſe, becaufe thou my lord doeſt fight the battels of our Lord: let not malice therefore be found in thee al the dayes of thy life. ²⁹ For if a man fhall rife, perfecuting thee, and ſeeking thy life, the life of my lord fhall be kept, as in the ^{b)}bundel of the liuing, with our Lord thy God: Moreouer the life of thine enemies fhall be whurled, and in the violence, and whurle of a fling. ³⁰ When our Lord therefore fhall doe to thee, my lord, al good thinges, which he hath ſpoken concerning thee, and fhall conſtitute thee prince ouer Ifrael, ³¹ this fhall not be an occaſion of fobbing to thee, and a ſcruple of hart to my lord, that thou haſt ſhed innocent blood, or thy ſelfe haſt reuenged thy ſelfe: and when our Lord hath beſtowed theſe benefites vpon my

^a Euil wordes for curteous vſage heretofore, and for late gentill in-treating by meſſengers.

^b Things tyed in bundels are ſtronger and more ſecure, then ſingle and looſe.

lord, thou shalt remember thy handmaide. ³² And Dauid sayd to Abigail: Bleffed be our Lord the God of Ifrael, who hath sent thee this day to meete me, and bleffed be thy speech, ³³ and bleffed by thou, which hast stayed me to day, that I might not goe to blood, and reuenge me with myn owne hand. ³⁴ Otherwife our Lord liueth the God of Ifrael, who hath stayed me, that I should not doe thee any euil: vnles thou hadst quickly come to meete me, there had not remained to Nabal vntil morning light, any pissing against a wal. ³⁵ And Dauid tooke of her hand al thinges which she had brought him, and said to her: Goe peaceable into thy house, behold I haue heard thy voice, and haue honoured thy face. ³⁶ And Abigail came to Nabal: and behold he had a feast in his house, as it were the feast of a king, and Nabals hart was pleafant: for he was drunke exceedingly: and she told him not a word litle or great vntil morning. ³⁷ But early when Nabal had digested his wine, his wife told him these wordes, and his hart was dead inwardly, and he became as a stone. ³⁸ And when ten dayes had passed, our Lord stroke Nabal, and he died. ³⁹ Which when Dauid had heard that Nabal was dead, he sayd: Bleffed be our Lord, who hath iudged the cause of my reproch at the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his seruant from euil, and the malice of Nabal hath our Lord rendred vpon his head. Dauid therefore sent, and spake to Abigail, that he might take her to himselfe to wife. ⁴⁰ And Dauids seruantes came to Abigail into Carmel, and spake to her, faing: Dauid hath sent vs vnto thee, to take thee to his wife. ⁴¹ Who arising adored flat toward the earth, and sayd: Loe let thy seruant be as an handmaide, to wash the feete of the seruantes of my lord. ⁴² And Abigail arose, and made haft, and gatte vpon an asse, and five women went with her waiting maides, and folowed the messengers of Dauid, and became his wife. ⁴³ Yea and Achinoam also did Dauid take of Iezrahel: and both were his wiues. ⁴⁴ But Saul gaue Michol his daughter Dauids wife to Phalti, the sonne of Lais, who was of Gallim.