

Is David a type of Jesus Christ as King? Yes

Is Abigail a type of Jesus Christ or is Abigail a type of the Bride of Jesus Christ? YES

Abigail: An Old Testament Type-of-Christ

Abigail: A picture of the Promotion In Rank given to the Bride of Christ

- Her marriage with King David prefigures the Messiah, King Jesus married to his bride.

I Samuel 25 is one of the most powerful hidden pictures of Jesus Christ in the life of David.

- At first glance, it appears to be about conflict, insult, and revenge.
- But underneath the surface is a deeper revelation about mercy stopping judgment, wisdom bringing peace, and a future king showing restraint before taking the throne.

Background Info: David and his men are fugitives from King Saul.

I Sam. 24: David gets close enough to Saul to cut off the edge of his garment without being detected. He refrains from harming Saul and leaves all retribution to God.

I Sam. 26: David is able to creep through the enemy camp right up to Saul's head in the dead of night. David refuses to inflict retaliation on Saul and leaves all retribution to God.

I Sam. 25: Strategically sandwiched between these 2 events is the account of David's terrible impatience and planned revenge with Nabal.

I Sam. 25:1 Samuel, the prophet, has died.

David & his 600 men move to the wilderness of Paran.

Samuel, the faithful prophet, is dead. David withdraws into the wilderness of Paran, a place of silence but also of inner testing.

- A wealthy man named Nabal uses wilderness of Paran for his very large flocks.

A. Nabal & Abigail: I Sam. 25:2-3

And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³ Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

1. Nabal = wicked, foolish, difficult, severe, cruel, harsh, inflexible, obstinate

a. One of Nabal's servants and his own wife called him, "a son of Belial" - a worthless man.

Refers to evil people who deliberately broke the law and despised what was good

- In the NT, it also refers to Satan [II Cor. 6:15]

2. Abigail [Father's joy or source of joy], intelligent and beautiful, was married to a wealthy, but sorry, good-for-nothing man, Nabal. [wealthy but not generous]
Good understanding = Strong's #7922 = intelligence; by implication, success: discretion, knowledge, prudence, and wisdom. Abigail had all of those in abundance.

A. David's Request: I Sam. 25:4-9

⁴ And David Heard In The Wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep at Carmel.

David and his men had provided protection to Nabal's sheep/goats during a critical period when Nabal's shepherds were in the wilderness with his massive flocks.

I Sam. 25:15-16 states David's men were a wall to Nabal's shepherds both by night and by day.

B. David's Hope: Nabal would reward him and his men for their service of protecting Nabal's sheep

and goats from the thieves that showed up at shearing time.

It would not be easy to feed 600 men in the wilderness. Nabal could easily spare some animals to feed 600 men who had risked their lives to guard part of his wealth.

David sent 10 men to explain the situation and to ask to be invited to the feast.

⁵ And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men,

Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

⁶ And thus shall ye say to him that lives in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us before, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel.

Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore, let *my* young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David."

⁹ And when David's young men came,

they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David and ceased.

C. Nabal's Response: I Sam. 25:10-11 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said,
Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse?

There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master.

¹¹ Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* to men when I do not know where they *are* from?"

His behavior reflects Psalms 14:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."

➤ Nabal: a picture of the hardened human heart that rejects God's chosen King.

1. Nabal's harsh dismissal of David's request reveals his true nature.

2. Nabal did not recognize David as God's anointed to be king.

Despite knowing of David's previous benevolence to his shepherds,

Nabal refuses to aid David and his men. No appreciation!

➤ Nabal essentially spits in the faces of David's servants.

D. David's Response: I Sam. 25 12-13 So David's young men turned their way,
and went again and came and told him all those sayings.

Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

- David is furious! He took 400 men and set out to retaliate by destroying Nabal's men. He who sought justice now reaches for the sword. He arms four hundred men for battle—not against an army, but against a single household. David, who once spared Saul, now stands on the brink of bloodguilt.

Note: The Attitudes & Actions Of 3 Different People

1. One spouts inflammatory words without any regard for the potential consequences.
2. One hears the words and, in haste, decides to retaliate in a manner with far-reaching implications.
3. Fortunately, standing between them is a woman who immediately grasps the entire setting. Then she races to bring a peaceful end which, in the long run, will bring special benefit to her.

E. Message To Abigail: I Sam. 25:14-17

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we anything, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: ¹⁶ They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him.

Interesting: The view of the incident from one of Nabal's young men.

1. David's men brought an appropriate greeting from David to Nabal.
2. Nabal hurled insults at them.
3. Young man had personally seen and experienced the attitude and care of David and his men.
They were a wall shielding them day and night.

Consider: It appears the future of this crisis in the hands of Abigail.

Abigail must have seen the panic in the young man's eyes. He was terrified—and for good reason. Grave danger loomed. Some 400 warriors were on the way, determined to kill off every male in the household of Nabal.

F. Abigail Pictures Jesus Christ Through Mercy & Wisdom

I Sam. 25:18-20 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys.

Abigail Had Godly Love For All Of Those Around Her:

1. When she heard David was coming with 400 men and swords, she could have fled—take some men and food with her and headed for the hills to protect herself.
 - She did not yield to fear but acted in WISDOM.
2. She had concern for all the males that would be soon killed within hours.
3. She is the embodiment of the resourceful, energetic and “valiant wife” of Prov. 31.
 - a. Loving, patient, disciplined, hardworking and efficiently organized
 - b. Wise and discerning, endowed with a gentle disposition and pleasant speech
 - c. With no prior notice, she can promptly put together an enormous meal to feed David's army.
 - d. Practical insight: 3x we are told she “made haste.”

Note: Her relationship with God was already in place when the crisis arose!

She acts quickly, humbly, and wisely to meet David before destruction comes.

Bread and Wine strongly foreshadow communion in the New Testament —
symbols of Christ's body and blood given for salvation.

5 Sheep point toward sacrifice and ultimately Jesus as the Lamb of God. [5 = grace]

Grain often symbolizes provision, harvest, and resurrection life throughout Scripture.

Raisins in the Bible often symbolize sustenance, provision, and hospitality. Various contexts highlight their importance as a food source and their role in offerings and celebrations.

- 100 often symbolizes completeness, fullness, or a large, rounded quantity, appearing in contexts like ages, quantities, and parables to reflect divine provision and totality.

Figs in Scripture can symbolize spiritual condition and Israel itself. Abigail bringing figs before judgment may symbolize restoration and peace before destruction falls.

- 200 often represents divine provision, completeness, and spiritual sufficiency.

Key: The abundance of provisions also reflects God's grace arriving before judgment.

25:19-20 And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰ And it was so, as she rode on the donkey, that she came down by the covert on the hill, and, behold,

David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

- It came about not by chance but by providence.
- God made sure to intersect their paths and prevent David from deviating to the left or the right of the path of holiness!

She is positioned between David and Nabal's house. She stands in the way of vengeance.

Abigail rode a donkey on the way to make amends for Nabal's words & behavior and to prevent bloodshed & avert disaster like Jesus rode on a donkey on His way to make atonement for our sin.

Abigail Pursues Peace

Ps. 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Strong's #1377 = pursue = press forward

1. She sought David out with the goal of making peace.

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

[Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.]

2. Peoples' lives were saved as a result of her pursuing peace.

- Peace should be a driving force in our lives.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My Peace I Give Unto You: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- To actively pursue peace, we must be led by the Spirit who is working in us.

G. David's Intent: I Sam. 25: 21-22

Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me [paid me back] evil for good. ²² May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!

1. All his good deeds to Nabal are worthless!

He has only received the railing insults of a wealthy, self-centered person.

2. He is determined to attack Nabal's camp, kill all the males and take all the needed supplies.

Then He Meets Abigail Face-To-Face.

H. Abigail's Intercession: I Sam. 25:23-25

At great risk to herself, she approaches David, an angry man bent on revenge, and intercedes for her husband, despite his bad behavior.

When she saw David, she dismounted and bowed her face to the ground.

She prostrates herself at David's feet. Listen to an amazing intercession speech of:

humility, honor, respect, and prophetic clarity.

²⁴Falling at his feet, she said: Upon me, my lord, Upon Me Let This Iniquity Be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

- She asks for the blame to be hers! She offers herself as the culprit!
- She took complete responsibility for the cruel decision and actions of her husband.
- She sought grace on behalf of her husband.
- She postured herself as a servant to David. "my lord" 14x; his "handmaiden" 6x.

After she sets the stage, then she asks David to disregard the words and actions of Nabal.

²⁵Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal:

for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him:

but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

Note: Despite her innocence she was willing to risk her life and accept the blame for her husband's sins to save the lives of others.

She takes responsibility and asks David not to shed innocent blood.

Her actions become one of the clearest pictures of intercession in the Old Testament.

➤ Abigail stands between wrath and destruction.

Her wisdom reflects the work of the Holy Spirit. Throughout Scripture, godly wisdom often symbolizes the Spirit's guidance leading people away from destruction and toward peace.

This reflects Jesus becoming our mediator:

- Jesus stands between sinners and judgment.
- Jesus absorbs wrath through sacrifice.
- Jesus brings peace where destruction was deserved.

Both Abigail and Jesus exemplify the role of a mediator, but Jesus fulfills this role uniquely by offering His life for the salvation of humanity.

Consider: Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice to save foolish sinners

from the consequences of their own actions. He continues to intercede for us.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them.

I. Abigail's Counsel: I Sam. 25:26-31 Now therefore, my lord, *as* the LORD lives and *as* your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal.

1. A major shift: Abigail suddenly becomes a messenger of the LORD.

When she says "LORD" in all caps, in the original text she was saying YHWH's personal name!

- Reminding David of to whom He belongs
 - Reminding David of who they both answer to
 - Reminding David that they are each set apart from the culture of their time

2. The LORD kept him from shedding blood and taking matters into his own hand.

3. She shares an understanding of God's purpose and future status of David.

I Sam. 25:27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

➤ The young men have also been saved from killing the innocent.

I Sam. 25:28-31 Abigail's Counsel

She reminds David of who he is—a servant of the LORD, a future ruler, one who fights God's battles, not personal vendettas.

Divine Assurance: Abigail reminds David that the Lord will establish his kingdom and that he will prevail over his enemies. She emphasizes that David fights the Lord's battles, suggesting that he should not tarnish his future by committing an act of violence against Nabal.

I Sam. 25:30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He Has Spoken Concerning You, and has appointed you ruler over Israel,
³¹ that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. [Let the LORD do the avenging.]

- Do not let your anger derail your destiny.

Request for Remembrance: Abigail requests that David remember her when he becomes king. This request highlights her faith in David's future and her desire to be remembered favorably.

- Her appeal flowed out of her strong belief in God's sovereignty and His faithfulness.

Abigail Committed To Do The Right Thing & God Took Care Of Her

Consider: Abigail could have started crying and wringing her hands and sobbing, just dissolving into a pool of misery on the floor.

1. She took action, put herself in danger, pursued peace, and trusted God for the results.
2. See Jesus in the garden the night He was betrayed. He knew what was ahead.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me:

Nevertheless Not My Will, But Thine, Be Done.

- a. He committed to going forward. Notice what God did once Jesus committed.

Luke 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, Strengthening Him.

J. David's Acceptance: I Sam. 25:32-35

And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: ³³ And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.

³⁴ Nevertheless, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, there certainly would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light *as much as one male*."

- David recognizes the hand of God in his life.
- Except for her intervention, Nabal and his household would have been obliterated.
- She stands in the gap to protect both parties.

Her example points to the Importance Of Words chosen when speaking in tense situations.

- Her humility silenced her enemy and completely changed his response to the situation.

Prov. 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

³⁵ So David accepted from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her,

"Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request."

K. Nabal's Death: I Sam. 25:36-38

And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken:

wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

³⁷ But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

³⁸ And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

- The LORD's judgment has done what David's sword would have done, and with no blood on David's hands.

L. Abigail's Future: I Sam. 25:39-42

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of the shame inflicted on me by the hand of Nabal, and has kept back His servant from evil. The LORD has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head."

Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

⁴⁰ When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."

⁴¹ Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said,

"Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."

⁴² So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David and became his wife.

I Samuel 25 prefigures the Gospel pattern: Intercession, Substitution, and Reconciliation.

Abigail's large gift to David was an intentional, multifaceted act of wisdom designed to:

1. atone for Nabal's offense
2. avert unnecessary bloodshed
3. honor the future king
4. uphold covenant hospitality
5. serve as a living parable of sacrificial mediation

Through this costly offering she safeguarded her household, fortified David's conscience, and recorded for posterity a prototype of Christ's own redemptive intercession.

The Old Testament continues to whisper Jesus' name long before Bethlehem.

- Judgment & Mercy collide. Humanity deserved wrath because of sin, yet Jesus Christ stepped between judgment and sinners just as Abigail stepped before David.
- The cross is where mercy met justice forever.

I Samuel 25 presents Abigail as a significant figure who foreshadows Jesus Christ through her actions & character

- Intercessor: Abigail intervenes between David and Nabal, preventing David from taking vengeance. This act of mediation is similar to how Jesus intercedes for humanity, offering peace and reconciliation with God.
- Taking Blame: Abigail offers to bear the blame for Nabal's actions, saying, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame." Took on the blame to spare others.
This mirrors Christ's willingness to take on the guilt of sin for humanity, ultimately leading to His sacrifice on the cross.
- Peacemaker: Exhibits mercy and humility to bring peace

Abigail's Actions	Christ's Parallels
Rides a donkey to meet David	Jesus rides a donkey into Jerusalem
Offers gifts to appease David for Nabal's behavior and trespass	Jesus offers Himself as a sacrifice for sin
Let the Blame for the offense fall on her	Jesus bore our sins. Substitutionary Guilt
Acts with wisdom & humility	Jesus embodies perfect wisdom & humility
Prevents bloodshed	Jesus prevents eternal separation from God
Establishes peace between David & Nabal	Jesus establishes peace between God & man
She washed the feet of David's servants	Jesus washed the feet of His disciples
She prophesied about David's Reign	Jesus declared His Coming Kingdom & Rule

Abigail Also Foreshadows The Bride Of Christ:

Her qualities and actions exemplify the characteristics that the Church, the Bride of Christ, is called to embody in its relationship with Jesus.

While Abigail lived under the cruel hand of Nabal with its difficult circumstances:

- God was creating in her the attributes of a queen - to be the bride of the King.
- Do not let our circumstances control our lives and RETARD our spiritual growth.

Note: Abigail trusted David while he was still rejected and wandering.

Christians follow Jesus even while the world still rejects Him.

Prophetic Imagery. David, the future king, receives a faithful bride who trusted him before he fully sat on the throne.

Abigail marries the future king. David is not king yet, but she believes God's promises to him.

This parallels Christ and the Church, His body: We are betrothed to Jesus Christ.

God promised Jesus, His Son, a kingdom and to be ruler of the world. Psalm 2

We recognize Him to be the true King before His Kingdom is fully revealed on earth.

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

These attributes reflect the character of Christ and are cultivated in believers as they walk in step with the Spirit.

Abigail possessed a godly love for others: Her Christ-like attitude

~1000 years later: Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

II Chron. 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him. God is seeking humble, devoted lives.

Ponder: Am I allowing The Holy Spirit to create in me the attributes to be the bride of my King?

I Peter 5:5-6 ...all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He May Exalt You In Due Time.