

# 1 Samuel 25:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,

## Analysis

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**And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,**

Abigail's approach demonstrates complete humility. The Hebrew 'vatemaher' (hasted) continues her urgent action. 'Lighted off the ass' (vattired) describes quick dismount from her riding position—she would not address David from superior elevation. Her prostration 'on her face' (al paneyha) with bowing 'to the ground' (artsah) represents the posture of supplication before royalty. Though David was an outlaw, Abigail recognized his true status and approached accordingly. This physical humility prefaced her verbal appeal. Her posture communicated what her words would argue: David deserved the honor Nabal had denied, and she came to give it.

## Historical Context

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Prostration before persons of higher status was standard ancient Near Eastern protocol. Abigail's posture acknowledged David's authority despite his fugitive status. The combination of haste, dismounting, and prostration demonstrated maximal respect.



**Joshua 15:18** (Light): And it came to pass, as she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou?

**Judges 1:14** (Light): And it came to pass, when she came to him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted from off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wilt thou?

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