

# 1 Samuel 25:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.

## Analysis

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**And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.**

David's response to Nabal's death combines theological reflection with practical action. His blessing identifies God as the one who 'pleaded the cause' (Hebrew 'rav')—God acted as David's advocate. The phrase 'my reproach' (cherpati) refers to Nabal's insults. God 'kept his servant from evil'—David recognizes his restraint was divinely enabled. The principle 'returned the wickedness...upon his own head' echoes biblical justice: sin rebounds on the sinner. David's immediate marriage proposal to Abigail demonstrates appreciation for her wisdom and character. This swift courtship suggests David had recognized her exceptional qualities during their encounter.

## Historical Context

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Ancient widows needed protection and provision quickly. David's proposal secured Abigail's future while gaining a remarkably wise wife. His rapid action was culturally appropriate rather than disrespectful to the deceased.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does David's blessing summarize the theological lessons of the entire episode?
2. What does his immediate proposal to Abigail reveal about his appreciation for wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

יְשָׁמַע	בְּרַאֲךָ	וְאָמַר	נָכַל	מִתְ	כִּי	פִּידָ	יְהִי ה
heard	And David	H3588	was dead	of Nabal	he said	Blessed	be the LORD

רָאשָׁה	בְּ	אָתָה	בְּרִיבָה	חַרְפָּתִים	מֵידָה
H834	<b>that hath pleaded</b>	H853	<b>the cause</b>	<b>of my reproach</b>	<b>from the hand</b>

בְּנֵי לְבָנָה יְאֹתֶר עָבֹד צָלָח רְכֻבָּתָה מִאֵת נְבָל  
of Nabal H853 his servant H5650 and hath kept H2820 from evil H7451 H853 from evil H7451 of Nabal H5037

בְּרָאשׁוֹ הִיהֵה יְהוָה תָּשִׁלַּח וְיָבַרְאֵל  
And David sent upon his own head the LORD be the LORD hath returned And David sent upon his own head the LORD be the LORD hath returned

לְאִשָּׁה: לְזִקְנָתָה בְּאָבִיגִיל יָדַיב ר  
and **communed** with **Abigail** to **take** H<sup>0</sup> **her to him to wife**  
H1696 H26 H3947 H802

## Additional Cross-References

**Proverbs 22:23** (References Lord): For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

**1 Samuel 25:34** (References Lord): For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

**1 Samuel 25:26** (Evil): Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

**Psalms 7:16** (Parallel theme): His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

**1 Kings 2:44** (Evil): The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

**1 Samuel 24:15** (References Lord): The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

**1 Samuel 25:32** (Blessing): And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:

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