

1 Samuel 25:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.

Analysis

And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.

Abigail's response mirrors her earlier urgent action. The Hebrew 'vatemaher' (hasted) echoes verse 18—she moved quickly then to prevent disaster, now to embrace opportunity. Her five attending maidens (na'arot) indicate she brought household support appropriate to her status. 'Went after the messengers' rather than requiring David to come showed respect for his situation and eagerness for the marriage. The concluding statement—'became his wife' (vatehi lo le'ishah)—completes the narrative arc. The wise woman who saved her foolish husband's household now joins her wisdom to Israel's future king.

Historical Context

Bringing attending maids was appropriate for a woman of Abigail's status entering a new household. Her haste honored David while her retinue maintained dignity. The marriage consolidated practical alliance with spiritual partnership.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Abigail's haste to join David parallel her earlier urgency in preventing violence?
2. What does her willing departure from wealth and comfort teach about recognizing God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְחַמֵּשׁ	פֶּהֶם	וּרְ	עַל	וַתַּרְכֵּב	אֲבִיגִיל	וַתֵּךְ	קָם	וַתִּמְלֹחֶה	רַ
hasted	and arose	And Abigail	and rode	H5921	upon an ass	with five			
H4116	H6965	H26	H7392		H2543				H2568
בָּנָרָת יְהֻ	לְבַגֵּל הַ	וַתֵּלֶךְ	לְבַגֵּל הַ	וַתֵּלֶךְ	אַחֲרֵי				
damsels	of hers that went	after	of hers that went	H1980	after				
H5291	H1980	H7272			H310				
לְאֵשָׁה:	לְזִוְתָּהִ	זִוְד	מְלֹאכִ						
the messengers	of David	H1961	H0	and became his wife					
H4397	H1732			H802					

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