

**Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 14,
1 Sam. 24-25 – David Spares Saul’s Life,
David Listens to the Voice of Wisdom
Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 14, 1 Sam. 24-25 – David Spares Saul’s Life, David Listens to the Voice of Wisdom, Biblicalearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Chisholm's lecture covers 1 Samuel chapters 24 and 25. Chapter 24 details **David's decision to spare Saul's life**, highlighting David's loyalty and faith in God's justice. Chapter 25 focuses on **David's encounter with Nabal and Abigail**, showcasing Abigail's wisdom in preventing violence and becoming David's wife. The lecture **analyzes David's actions**, his faith, and the role of divine providence in these events. The lectures also **explore key theological themes** of justice, vengeance, and waiting on God's timing.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 14 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).



**Chisholm_Samuel_S
ession14.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 14, 1 Sam. 24-25 – David Spares Saul’s Life, David Listens to the Voice of Wisdom

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Chisholm_Sam_EN_Session14_1Sam24_25.pdf":

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel Chapters 24-25

Overview:

This session focuses on two pivotal chapters in 1 Samuel: Chapter 24, where David spares Saul's life, and Chapter 25, where David is influenced by Abigail's wisdom. Dr. Chisholm frames these chapters as critical examples of David's character, particularly his loyalty to God and his ability to trust in God's timing.

Chapter 24: David Spares Saul's Life

- **Context:** Saul continues to relentlessly pursue David, intent on killing him. This pursuit follows a near capture in chapter 23. Saul takes 3,000 men to search for David in the Desert of En-Gedi.
- **The Cave Encounter:** Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, unaware that David and his men are hiding deep within it. David's men interpret this as a God-given opportunity to kill Saul, referencing a previous, but unrecorded, promise that God would deliver Saul into David's hands: "I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish." David's men see this as a clear sign to kill Saul.
- **David's Restraint:** David refuses to kill Saul, despite his men's encouragement. He acknowledges Saul as "the Lord's anointed" and states, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master...or lay my hand on him." David instead chooses to cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
- **David's Conscience:** David experiences remorse for even this act of disrespect. He is "conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe."
- **Confrontation and David's Defense:** David exits the cave, bows before Saul, and confronts him with humility. He asks why Saul is listening to accusations against him. David explains that he spared Saul's life: "This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you." He uses the piece of the robe as evidence of his innocence.

- **David's Appeal to God:** David appeals to the Lord as judge: "May the Lord judge between you and me, and may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you." David emphasizes his refusal to take vengeance into his own hands and that the Lord will be his vindicator.
- **Saul's Response:** Saul is moved by David's actions and words. He weeps and acknowledges David's righteousness: "You are more righteous than I... You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly." Saul admits that the Lord delivered him to David but that David spared him. Saul also recognizes that David will be king: "I know this is significant, that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands." He makes David swear not to kill his descendants.
- **Key Themes & Principles (Chapter 24):** **The Lord Vindicates His Chosen Servants:** God's justice prevails when His servants trust in Him.
- **Resist Temptation to Force God's Promises:** When the fulfillment of God's promise is delayed, resist the urge to force the issue; instead, "commit to doing what's right and wait on God's timing for the promise to be fulfilled."
- **Look to God for Vindication:** During oppression, God's servants are to "look to God for vindication" rather than taking matters into their own hands.
- **Loyalty to the Anointed:** David's loyalty to Saul, despite Saul's relentless pursuit, demonstrates deep respect for the Lord's appointed leader.

Chapter 25: David Listens to the Voice of Wisdom

- **Context:** The chapter begins with the death of Samuel, a significant loss for David. This sets a tone of uncertainty and change.
- **The Story of Nabal and Abigail:** A wealthy man named Nabal, described as "surly and mean," holds a sheep-shearing festival. Nabal's wife, Abigail, is described as intelligent, wise and beautiful.
- **David's Request to Nabal:** David sends messengers to Nabal to request provisions, highlighting the protection David's men offered to Nabal's shepherds.
- David's messengers say: "When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them... Therefore, be favorable toward my men since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them."

- **Nabal's Insult:** Nabal responds rudely, questioning David's authority and denying their request, referring to David as "this son of Jesse," similar to how Saul referred to David. Nabal responds: "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread...and give it to men coming from who knows where?"
- **David's Wrath:** David, angered by Nabal's insult, gathers 400 men to attack Nabal and his household: "May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him."
- **Abigail's Intervention:** Nabal's servants inform Abigail, who quickly gathers a large amount of food and goes to meet David, without Nabal's knowledge.
- **Abigail's Wisdom:** Abigail intercepts David and humbly pleads for mercy, acknowledging David's divine destiny: "The Lord your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the Lord's battles..." She recognizes him as the future king. She also appeals to David not to stain his hands with blood and to leave vengeance to the Lord, "...the Lord has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands." She offers the provisions Nabal should have provided.
- **David's Acceptance of Abigail's Wisdom:** David recognizes that Abigail is sent by the Lord: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands." He acknowledges that he would have needlessly spilled blood had she not intervened.
- **Nabal's Death:** Abigail returns home, and after Nabal sobers up and hears what she has done his heart fails him and he becomes like a stone. Ten days later, the Lord strikes Nabal dead.
- **David Marries Abigail:** David acknowledges the Lord's vindication and asks Abigail to be his wife: "Praise be to the Lord, who has upheld my cause against Nabal... and has kept his servant from doing wrong." Abigail readily accepts.
- **Key Themes & Principles (Chapter 25):****Wisdom as a Guide:** Abigail, a wise woman, serves as a voice of wisdom, leading David away from rash and violent actions, much like the personification of wisdom found in the book of Proverbs.

- **Avoiding Vengeance:** David's initial desire for revenge is juxtaposed with Abigail's plea to leave vengeance to God, reinforcing the importance of trusting in God's justice.
- **God's Providence:** God uses Abigail to intervene and prevent David from committing a sin. This shows God's active role in guiding David's life.
- **Learning from Chapter 24:** David again recognizes the Lord's role in vindication.

Conclusion:

These chapters offer a rich study in character development and theological themes. David is portrayed as a man who is learning to trust in God's timing and God's way, even when he faces oppression and injustice. His actions are contrasted with the rashness of Saul and Nabal, highlighting the difference between reliance on God and reliance on one's own power or anger. The role of women, particularly Abigail, as providers of wisdom and guidance, is also a noteworthy aspect of these chapters.

4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 14, 1 Sam. 24-25 – David Spares Saul’s Life, David Listens to the Voice of Wisdom

1 & 2 Samuel, Session 14: Study Guide

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What specific event prompted Saul to pursue David in the desert of En-Gedi, leading to the cave encounter?
2. What did David's men suggest he should do to Saul when they were in the cave? How did David react to this suggestion?
3. What symbolic act did David commit while in the cave, and what was his reaction to doing it?
4. What arguments did David make when he confronted Saul outside the cave, and what did he appeal to?
5. What was Saul's reaction to David's speech, and how did Saul acknowledge David's righteousness?
6. Why is the death of Samuel significant in the context of the narrative in 1 Samuel 25?
7. How does Nabal behave when David's messengers approach him, and what is the significance of this behavior?
8. What role does Abigail play in preventing a disastrous conflict between David and Nabal's household?
9. How does Abigail's wisdom serve as a turning point in David's actions in chapter 25, and what lesson does he learn?
10. What happens to Nabal, and how does this event validate the lessons that David had learned?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Saul had returned from pursuing the Philistines, and was informed that David was in the desert of En-Gedi. This led him to take 3,000 men to pursue David.

2. David's men suggested that he should kill Saul since they believed God had delivered Saul into David's hands. However, David rebuked his men, stating that it was wrong to harm the Lord's anointed.
3. David cut off a corner of Saul's robe, and afterward he felt conscience-stricken for having done so. He saw this act as a sign of disrespect towards the Lord's anointed.
4. David argued that he spared Saul's life when he had the opportunity to kill him in the cave and that he is innocent of wrongdoing, appealing to the Lord to judge between them. David also presented the cut-off piece of Saul's robe as evidence that he meant no harm.
5. Saul wept aloud and confessed that David was more righteous than him. He acknowledged that David had treated him well, while he had treated David badly, proving David's innocence.
6. Samuel's death signals a transition in leadership and a shift in the narrative focus from Samuel and Saul to Saul and David. It also marks the loss of one of David's closest allies.
7. Nabal insulted David's messengers and refused to share his provisions. His arrogant behavior and lack of respect show that he does not acknowledge David's status or authority.
8. Abigail intervenes by taking food to David and pleading with him to reconsider his plan to attack Nabal's house. She uses wisdom and humility, appealing to David to trust in God to vindicate him, not his own hand.
9. Abigail's wisdom stops David from taking vengeance into his own hands and teaches him that God will vindicate him in his own time. She reminds him of his future as ruler, urging him not to compromise his future with needless bloodshed.
10. The Lord struck Nabal, and he died. This event serves as a way the Lord vindicated David against Nabal. David then saw that he didn't have to take matters into his own hands.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of the cave scene in 1 Samuel 24, focusing on David's actions and motivations. How does this episode contribute to the larger narrative of David's innocence and Saul's guilt?
2. Compare and contrast David's responses to injustice in 1 Samuel 24 and 25. How do these chapters reveal his understanding of God's role in delivering justice?
3. Examine the character of Abigail and her role in 1 Samuel 25. How does she embody the concept of wisdom, and how does her intervention impact David's decisions?
4. Discuss the main themes of 1 Samuel 24-25, focusing on vindication, the delay of God's promise, and the importance of waiting on God's timing. How do these themes resonate within the larger story of 1 Samuel?
5. Explore the complexities of David's character as portrayed in these two chapters. What are his strengths and weaknesses, and how do they contribute to our understanding of his relationship with God?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anointed:** A person consecrated or set apart for a special purpose, often referring to kings or priests. In this context, Saul is referred to as the Lord's anointed.
- **Vindication:** The act of clearing someone of blame or suspicion; being proven right. David seeks vindication from God for the wrongs done to him.
- **The Lord's Anointed:** A title used in the Old Testament to describe those who have been chosen by God for a special purpose. In 1 Samuel, this primarily refers to Saul, the king.
- **Davidic Apology:** A series of narratives in 1 Samuel where David's actions and motives are presented as righteous, aiming to show that he is not disloyal to Saul.
- **Prostrate:** To lay oneself flat on the ground in reverence, submission, or humility. David does this before Saul in chapter 24.
- **Protection Racket:** A scheme in which criminals demand payment in exchange for protection. Some have speculated David was running one, but the text indicates otherwise.
- **Harem:** The collection of wives and concubines belonging to a ruler. This becomes a subject of interest as the story of David progresses.
- **Homonym:** Words that have the same pronunciation or spelling but different meanings. The name Nabal in Hebrew is an example.
- **Providence:** The protective care of God or of nature as a spiritual power. Abigail serves as an example of God's providence.
- **Lady Wisdom/Lady Folly:** Personified concepts of wisdom and foolishness, often appearing in the Book of Proverbs, but embodied by Abigail and Nabal, respectively, in 1 Samuel 25.

5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 14, 1 Sam. 24-25 – David Spares Saul’s Life, David Listens to the Voice of Wisdom, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Key Themes and Ideas from 1 Samuel 24-25

- **What was the significant event in 1 Samuel 24, and what does it reveal about David's character?** In 1 Samuel 24, David had the opportunity to kill Saul, who was actively hunting him. While Saul was in a cave relieving himself, David and his men were hidden inside. David's men encouraged him to kill Saul, viewing this as God delivering Saul into his hands. However, David chose to spare Saul, only cutting off a piece of his robe. This act of restraint demonstrates David's deep respect for Saul as the Lord's anointed and his refusal to take matters of vengeance into his own hands. It highlights his loyalty and his willingness to trust in God's timing and justice.
- **How does David defend himself to Saul after sparing his life in the cave?** After leaving the cave, David publicly confronts Saul, showing him respect by bowing low and calling him "my lord, the king." David emphasizes his innocence by asking why Saul listens to accusations that David intends to harm him. David presents the piece of Saul's robe as evidence that he had the chance to kill him but chose not to. He states he would never harm the Lord's anointed and appeals to God as the ultimate judge between them. David is clear he is not seeking vengeance but trusts in God for his vindication.
- **What is Saul's reaction to David's actions and words in chapter 24?** Saul is deeply moved by David's restraint and words. He acknowledges David's righteousness and confesses that he has treated David badly. He realizes that David had the opportunity to kill him but spared his life. Saul understands that God had delivered him to David, and he recognizes that David is not his enemy. Saul even states that he knows that David will be the next king and asks David to swear he won't kill off his descendants. This is a complete turnaround from his previous behavior.

- **What are the key takeaways or principles from the story of David sparing Saul's life?** The core principles are that God vindicates His chosen servants when they trust in Him for justice and that God's people must resist the urge to force the fulfillment of God's promises by their own actions. When facing oppression, believers should look to God for vindication and must not take revenge into their own hands, even when they have the opportunity. It demonstrates the importance of doing what is right and waiting on God's timing for His promises to materialize.
- **What is the main theme of 1 Samuel 25, and who is the key figure in conveying it?** The primary theme of 1 Samuel 25 is David listening to the voice of wisdom. The key figure in this is Abigail, the intelligent and wise wife of the foolish Nabal. She is contrasted with her foolish husband, Nabal, who is disrespectful and ungrateful towards David. Abigail intervenes to prevent David from rashly seeking vengeance and shedding innocent blood.
- **What leads David to become so angry with Nabal, and how does Abigail intervene?** David, who had protected Nabal's shepherds and property, sent messengers to request provisions for his men during the sheep-shearing festival. Nabal, however, rejected David's request with disrespect and insults. This deeply angered David, causing him to swear vengeance. Abigail, upon learning of Nabal's actions, quickly gathers an array of provisions and intercepts David. She shows him great respect, acknowledges his destiny, and reminds him that the Lord will vindicate him. She provides the supplies Nabal refused, and she skillfully reasons with David, preventing him from carrying out his vengeful plan.
- **How does Abigail's wisdom lead to the protection of Nabal's household and David's salvation from sin?** Abigail's wisdom and quick action prevent David from carrying out his rash vow to slaughter all the males in Nabal's household. She appeals to his wisdom and understanding of God's justice, reminding him that the Lord will deal with his enemies in his own time. Her intervention saves both Nabal's household from being unjustly killed and David from the burden of needless bloodshed and acting against God's will, saving him from the sin of vengeance.

- **What happens to Nabal and Abigail in the aftermath of their encounter with David, and what does it mean for David?** After Abigail returns home and tells Nabal what she has done, Nabal has a stroke and eventually dies ten days later, with the text strongly implying this was divine judgment. David recognizes God's hand in this, stating that the Lord has upheld his cause. David then marries Abigail, and the text suggests this is a way for him to recognize and embrace the voice of wisdom she embodies. It also further solidifies David's trust in God to provide and protect. The end of 1 Samuel 25 also notes David already has another wife (Ahinoam) and thus highlights David's growing harem.