

## Civil War

CHARACTERS: David, Abigail, Joab, Abishai, Sheba, Young man, Wise woman

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 20

ABIGAIL: Right after Absalom's revolt, a wicked man, a Benjaminite named Sheba convinced the men of Israel to desert David and followed him.

JOAB: The men of Judah from the Jordan all the way to Jerusalem remained loyal to their king.

DAVID: *(to Amasa)* Summon the men of Judah to me within three days and be here yourself.

ABIGAIL: But it took longer than three days.

DAVID: *(to Abishai)* Sheba will do more harm to us than Absalom. Take my soldiers and pursue him, or he will find fortified cities and elude us.

ABISHAI: We were at the great stone in Gibeon when Amasa joined us.

JOAB: *(aside to audience)* Now is my chance to get revenge since Amasa killed my younger brother Ashael. *(to Amasa)* Are you well, my brother?

ABISHAI: Joab grabbed Amasa by the beard to kiss him and stabbed him in the stomach with his sword.

YOUNG MAN: Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David follow Joab! *(aside)* I'll toss Amasa's body to the field so people quit stopping to stare.

ABISHAI: Sheba is hiding out in Abel.

JOAB: Besiege the city and build an assault ramp against the outer wall.

ABISHAI: Batter the wall to make it collapse.

WISE WOMAN: Listen! Listen! Please tell Joab to come here and let me speak with him.

JOAB: I'm listening.

WISE WOMAN: In the past, they used to say,

YOUNG MAN: 'Seek counsel in Abel.

WISE WOMAN: and that's how they settled disputes. I am a peaceful person, one of the faithful in Israel, but you're trying to destroy a city that is like a mother in Israel. Why would you devour the Lord's inheritance?"

JOAB: Never! I do not want to destroy! There is a man named Sheba who has rebelled against King David. Deliver this one man, and I will withdraw from the city.

WISE WOMAN: All right. His head will be thrown over the wall to you.

ABISHAI: Here's Sheba's head. Let's go home.

JOAB: I regained command of the whole army of Israel.

## Justice for the Gibeonites

CHARACTERS: David, Abigail, Joab, all VOICE OF GOD, Group A & B

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 21

DAVID: Zadok, inquire of the Lord why a three year famine has come.

VOICE OF GOD: It is because of the blood shed by Saul and his family when he killed the Gibeonites.

DAVID: Joshua made a treaty with them long ago. Saul broke that treaty and tried to kill them in his zeal for the Israelites and Judah. *(to Gibeonites)* What should I do for you? How can I make atonement so that you will bring a blessing on the Lord's inheritance?"

GIBEONITE: We are not asking for money from Saul or his family. As for the man who annihilated us and plotted to destroy us so we would not exist within the whole territory of Israel, let seven of his male descendants be handed over to us so we may hang them in the presence of the Lord at Gibeah of Saul.

DAVID: I will hand them over. *(aside)* I'll spare Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the Lord that was between Jonathan and me.

GIBEONITE: We have hung two sons whom Rizpah had borne to Saul, and the five sons whom Merab daughter of Saul had borne.

ABIGAIL: They were executed in the first days of the barley harvest. Rizpah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on the rock from the beginning of the harvest until the rain poured down from heaven on the bodies.

RIZPAH: *(weeping)* I will keep the birds of the sky from them by day and the wild animals by night.

ABIGAIL: David, a mother weeps for her children. Day and night, she keeps animals from eating them. It's so sad.

DAVID: I know what it is like to lose children. I'll gather up the bones of Saul's family who had been hung and bury them with Jonathan and David.

JOAB: The Philistines again wage war against us.

DAVID: Let's go fight them.

ABIGAIL: David went down with his soldiers, and fought the Philistines, but he became exhausted.

ABISHAI: Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giant, whose bronze spear weighed about eight pounds and who wore new armor, intended to kill David.

JOAB: Abishai came to David's aid, struck the Philistine, and killed him.

ABISHAI: David, you must never again go out with us to battle. You must not extinguish the lamp of Israel.

JOAB: We had three more battles with the Philistines and their giants.

ABISHAI: We even faced a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot.

JOAB: David's brother Shimei, killed him.

## David's Song of Thanksgiving

CHARACTERS: David, Abigail, All, Group A & B

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 7 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 22

*BEFORE YOU READ: In verse 34 and in other scriptures, David compares himself to a deer. The legs of a white-tailed deer are adapted to enhance running and leaping. They can run at about 30-40 miles per hour for short bursts and at 25 miles per hour for longer periods. They are able to jump obstacles that are up to 9 feet tall and 25 feet wide. Their legs have powerful muscles and ligaments which provide extra spring and increase the speed and thrust in a deer's stride. How are David and a deer similar?*

ABIGAIL: David spoke the words of this song to the Lord on the day the Lord rescued him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

DAVID: The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,

ALL: my God, my mountain where I seek refuge.

DAVID: My shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge,

ALL: and my Savior, You save me from violence.

DAVID: I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies.

GA: For the waves of death engulfed me;

GB: the torrents of destruction terrified me.

GA: The ropes of Sheol entangled me;

GB: the snares of death confronted me.

DAVID: I called to the Lord in my distress;

ALL: I called to my God.

DAVID: From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for help reached His ears.

GA: Then the earth shook and quaked;

GB: the foundations of the heavens trembled;

ALL: they shook because He burned with anger.

GA: Smoke rose from His nostrils, and consuming fire came from His mouth;

GB: coals were set ablaze by it.

DAVID: He parted the heavens and came down, a dark cloud beneath His feet.

ALL: He rode on a cherub and flew, soaring on the wings of the wind.

DAVID: He made darkness a canopy around Him, a gathering of water and thick clouds.

ALL: From the radiance of His presence, flaming coals were ignited.

GA: The Lord thundered from heaven;

GB: the Most High projected His voice.

GA: He shot arrows and scattered them;

GB: He hurled lightning bolts and routed them.

GA: The depths of the sea became visible,

GB: the foundations of the world were exposed at the rebuke of the Lord,

ALL: at the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

DAVID: He reached down from heaven and took hold of me;

ALL: He pulled me out of deep waters.

GA: He rescued me from my powerful enemy and from those who hated me,

GB: for they were too strong for me.

DAVID: They confronted me in the day of my distress, but the Lord was my support.

GA: He brought me out to a spacious place;

GB: He rescued me because He delighted in me.

GA: The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness;

GB: He repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.

DAVID: For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not turned from my God to wickedness.

GA: Indeed, I have kept all His ordinances in mind and have not disregarded His statutes.

GB: I was blameless before Him and kept myself from sinning.

DAVID: So the Lord repaid me according to my righteousness,

ALL: according to my cleanness in His sight.

DAVID: With the faithful, You prove Yourself faithful;

ALL: With the blameless man, You prove Yourself blameless;

ABIGAIL: With the pure, You prove Yourself pure,

ALL: but with the crooked, You prove Yourself shrewd.

DAVID: You rescue an afflicted people, but Your eyes are set against the proud—

ALL: You humble them.

DAVID: Lord, You are my lamp;

ALL: the Lord illuminates my darkness.

DAVID: With You, I can attack a barrier, and with my God, I can leap over a wall.

ALL: God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is pure.

ABIGAIL: He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

GA: For who is God besides the Lord?

GB: And who is a rock?

ALL: Only our God.

ABIGAIL: God is my strong refuge; He makes my way perfect.

DAVID: He makes my feet like the feet of a deer and sets me securely on the heights.

GB: He trains my hands for war; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

DAVID: You have given me the shield of Your salvation;

ALL: Your help exalts me.

DAVID: You widen a place beneath me for my steps, and my ankles do not give way.

GA: I pursue my enemies and destroy them;

ALL: I do not turn back until they are wiped out.

DAVID: I wipe them out and crush them, and they do not rise;

ALL: they fall beneath my feet.

GA: You have clothed me with strength for battle;

GB: You subdue my adversaries beneath me.

DAVID: You have made my enemies retreat before me;

ALL: I annihilate those who hate me.

GA: They look, but there is no one to save them—

GB: they look to the Lord, but He does not answer them.

DAVID: I pulverize them like dust of the earth;

ALL: I crush them and trample them like mud in the streets.

ABIGAIL: You have freed me from the feuds among my people;

DAVID: You have appointed me the head of nations; a people I had not known serve me.

GA: Foreigners submit to me grudgingly; as soon as they hear, they obey me.

GB: Foreigners lose heart and come trembling from their fortifications.

DAVID: The Lord lives—may my rock be praised!

ABIGAIL: God, the rock of my salvation, is exalted.

GA: God—He gives me vengeance and casts down peoples under me.

GB: He frees me from my enemies.

GA: You exalt me above my adversaries;

GB: You rescue me from violent men.

DAVID: Therefore, I will praise You, Lord, among the nations;

ABIGAIL: I will sing about Your name.

DAVID: He is a tower of salvation for His king;

ALL: ` He shows loyalty to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

## David's Last Words

CHARACTERS: David, Abigail, all VOICE OF GOD

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 23

ABIGAIL: These are the last words of David: the one anointed by the God of Jacob, the favorite singer of Israel:

DAVID: The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me,

ALL: His word was on my tongue.

DAVID: the Rock of Israel said to me,

VOICE OF GOD: The one who rules the people with justice, who rules in the fear of God, is like the morning light when the sun rises on a cloudless morning, the glisten of rain on sprouting grass.

DAVID: Is it not true my house is with God?

ALL: For He has established an everlasting covenant with me,

ABIGAIL: ordered and secured in every detail.

DAVID: Will He not bring about my whole salvation and my every desire?

ALL: But all the wicked are like thorns raked aside;

ABIGAIL: they can never be picked up by hand.

DAVID: The man who touches them must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear.

ALL: They will be completely burned up on the spot.



## David's Mighty Men

CHARACTERS: David, Abigail, Jasheb, Eleazar, Shamah, Abishai

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 23

ABIGAIL: These are the names and exploits of David's warriors:

DAVID: Josheb-basshebeth was chief of the officers.

JASHEB: I wielded my spear against 800 men that I killed at one time.

ABIGAIL: After him, Eleazar son of Dodo was among the three warriors with David when they defied the Philistines.

DAVID: The men of Israel retreated in the place they had gathered for battle, but Eleazar stood his ground.

ELEAZAR: I attacked the Philistines until my hand was tired and stuck to my sword.

DAVID: Then the troops came back to him, but only to plunder the dead.

ELEAZAR: (*humbly*) The Lord brought about a great victory that day.

DAVID: After him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite.

ABIGAIL: The Philistines had assembled in formation where there was a field full of lentils.

DAVID: The troops fled from the Philistines, but Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field.

SHAMMAH: I, defended it, and struck down the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.

ABIGAIL: Three of the 30 leading warriors went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam, while a company of Philistines was camping in the Valley of Rephaim.

DAVID: I was extremely thirsty and said, "If only someone would bring me water to drink from the well at the city gate of Bethlehem!" where the Philistines had a garrison.

ABIGAIL: So three of the warriors broke through the Philistine camp and drew water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem.

JASHEB: We brought it back to David, but he refused to drink it.

ABIGAIL: Instead, he poured it out to the Lord.

DAVID: Lord, I would never do such a thing! Is this not the blood of men who risked their lives?

JASHEB: So he refused to drink it.

ABIGAIL: Such were the exploits of the three warriors of whom Abishai, Joab's brother was leader.

DAVID: He raised his spear against 300 men and killed them, gaining a reputation among the Three. ABIGAIL: Was he not more honored than the Three?

ABISHAI: I became their commander even though I did not become one of the Three.

DAVID: Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of a brave man, a man of many exploits.

ABIGAIL: Benaiah killed two sons of Ariel of Moab, and he went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

DAVID: He also killed an Egyptian, a huge man.

BENAIHAH: Even though the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, I went down to him with a club. I snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and then killed him with his own spear.

DAVID: Benaiah had a reputation among the three warriors.

ABIGAIL: He was the most honored of the Thirty, but he did not become one of the Three.

DAVID: I put him in charge of his bodyguard. Among the Thirty were:

ABIGAIL: Joab's brother Asahel, who was killed by Abner.

SHAMMAH: My son Jonathan

BENAIHAH: Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite. Ahithophel joined Absalom's conspiracy against David.

ELEAZAR: Uriah the Hittite, whom David had murdered in battle.

DAVID: There were 37 in all.

## David's Counts Soldiers Instead of Blessings

CHARACTERS: David, Abigail, Joab, VOICE OF GOD, GAD, Araunah

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 24

*Before you read: Think of three ways God blessed David and three things God has done for you.*

DAVID: (to Joab) Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and register the troops so I can know their number.

JOAB: May the Lord your God multiply the troops 100 times more than they are—while my lord the king looks on! But why does my lord the king want to do this?

DAVID: Just do it.

JOAB: It took nine months and 20 days to count them all. There are 800,000 fighting men in Israel and 500,000 men in Judah.

ABIGAIL: David's conscience troubled him after he had taken a census of the troops.

DAVID: Lord, I have sinned greatly in what I've done. Now, Lord, because I've been very foolish, please take away Your servant's guilt.

VOICE OF GOD: Gad, go tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am offering you three choices. Choose one of them, and I will do it to you.'

GAD: Do you want three years of famine to come on your land, to flee from your foes three months while they pursue you, or to have a plague in your land three days?

DAVID: Not human hands.

GAD: Think it over and decide what answer I should take back to the One who sent me.

DAVID: I have great anxiety. Please, let us fall into the Lord's hands because His mercies are great.

ABIGAIL: So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the appointed time, and from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men died.

DAVID: Lord, look, I am the one who has sinned; I am the one who has done wrong. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let Your hand be against me and my father's family.

GAD: Look! The angel God sent is extending his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it.

ABIGAIL: Just then, Lord relented concerning the destruction. He stopped just before reaching the threshing floor of Araunah

VOICE OF GOD: (to angel) Enough, withdraw your hand now!

GAD: Set up an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah.

ABIGAIL: David went up in obedience to Gad's command, Araunah saw the king and his servants coming toward him, so he went out and bowed to the king with his face to the ground.

ARAUNAH: Why has my lord the king come to his servant?

DAVID: To buy the threshing floor from you in order to build an altar to the Lord, so the plague on the people may be halted.

ARAUNAH: My lord the king may take whatever he wants and offer it. Here are the oxen for a burnt offering and the threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. My king, Araunah gives everything here to the king. May the Lord your God accept you.

DAVID: No, I insist on buying it from you for a price, for I will not offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.

ABIGAIL: David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for 20 ounces of silver.

GAD: He built an altar to the Lord there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.

ABIGAIL: Then the Lord answered prayer on behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel ended.