

# SHEEP SHEARING

<sup>7</sup> “ *Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing.* <sup>8</sup> *Ask your own servants and they will tell you. 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.* ”

I Samuel 25:7,8

- I. Whenever sheep-shearing is mentioned, it marks an important epoch.
- II. Old scores were settled at the sheep-shearing festival.
  - A. Tamar lures Judah to secure her rightful offspring.  
(Genesis 38:12)  
*12 After a long time Judah’s wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.*
  - B. Absalom avenges his sister Tamar’s rape.  
(II Samuel 13:23)  
*23 Two years later, when Absalom’s sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king’s sons to come there.*
- III. God deals with unrewarded service and unfair compensation during the sheep-shearing festival.
  - \* Jacob takes what rightfully belongs to him after 20 years of faithful service. (Genesis 31:9,18)

*9 So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me. ... 18 and he drove all his livestock ahead of him, along with all the goods he had accumulated in Paddan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.*

IV. God allowed escape from domineering and manipulative masters during the sheep-shearing festival.

\* Jacob escapes his domineering father-in-law, Laban, at sheep shearing time. (Genesis 31:19-21)

*19 When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods. 20 Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. 21 So he fled with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.*

V. God removes any people who would block the advancement of your destiny during sheep-shearing season.

(I Samuel 25:37-39)

*37 Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. 38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died. 39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head." Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife.*

VI. Sheep-shearing was a time of trickery.

- A. Jacob surreptitiously escapes Laban.
- B. Tamar disguised herself as a prostitute.
- C. Absalom deceptively invites Amnon to the festival.

VII. Tight fisted flock owners will be dealt with.

- \* Laban and Nabal are names in reverse of one another.
- \*\* Those who have been unfairly compensated for caring for others' flocks will be blessed.

VII. You receive what is rightfully yours during sheep-shearing.

- \* Abigail receives a blessing beyond her expectations.  
(I Samuel 25:40,41)

*40 His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife." 41 She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "I am your servant and am ready to serve you and wash the feet of my lord's servants."*

VIII. You will leave sheep-shearing season with a double portion.

- \* Both Jacob and David leave their encounters with two wives. (Rachel and Leah. Abigail and Ahinoam.)