

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on  
*Sefer Shmuel: Perakim Chaf Hey - Chaf Vav*  
by Zvi Grumet**

**פרק כ"ה**

1. *אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל* is outside the boundaries of *מְדִבְר פָּאָרָן*. Why do you think דוד goes there after שמואל dies?
2. Once again, we have a story that we think is about a man but turns out to be about his wife! Notice *פְּסוּק ג* which contrasts the two.
3. נבל claimed that דוד was nothing more than a renegade against the king. Was he right? What allegiance would נבל have to שאול?
4. נבל is described as a *כְּלָבִי*. What does that mean and why might it be important?
5. מעון is in the hills of southern יהודה, south of דוד's home turf, yet he does not seem to have popular support from the people. Is this true? Can you explain this?
6. Notice the parallels between *פְּסוּק יח-יט* and *בראשית לב:ג-כ*. If this parallel holds true, to whom is דוד being compared in the first half of this פרק?
7. In her plea to אביגיל, דוד uses the word *קָלַע* twice (*פְּסוּק כט*). Notice the prominence of that word in *יז:יז-יט*. Note: these are the only two chapters in *ספר שמואל* in which the word appears.
8. What is the essence of אביגיל's plea with דוד? Why does דוד accept her argument?
9. What would have happened had דוד followed through in his plan to attack נבל? Which significant characters in *ספר שופטים* were motivated by vengeance or by lack of popular support?
10. דוד faces a crisis at the sheep-shearing festival, and a woman presents him with an argument which eventually sways him. Note: דוד is not the first person from his שבט to face a moral crisis at a sheep-shearing festival who is swayed by the arguments of a woman!! Can you think of the first one?
11. דוד marries two women at the end of this פרק. This entire פרק seems to be the prelude to his marrying אביגיל. Why does he suddenly decide to take another wife?
12. Does דוד emerge from this story stronger or weaker?

**פרק כ"ו**

1. Does the *פְּסוּק* about שאול belong at the beginning of this פרש or at the end of the previous one?
2. The *ספר* introduces *בן צרויה* as יואב's brother – but יואב has not appeared as yet!
3. שאול comes with 3,000 soldiers. Where else do we find him with 3,000 soldiers?
4. This is the second time דוד has an opportunity to kill שאול but does not. In what ways is this case significantly different from the previous one?
5. Compare what אבישי plans to do to שאול with how the *ספר* describes what שאול wanted to do to דוד.

6. This is the second time that שאול approach זיפים to let him know that דוד is in their region; the first is in פרק כג. In what are these two incidents similar? In what ways are they different?
7. דוד first encourages אבישי to approach שאול's המים, but in the following פסוק it is דוד who takes them. Can you explain why?
8. Note: This is the last time that דוד and שאול meet.