

Bad from the start! 1 Sam. 18:16

David & Michal:

I. A 2nd choice!

This is a weird story at (& really from) the beginning!

1 Samuel 18:16 But **all Israel and Judah loved David**, because he went out and came in before them. **1 Samuel 18:17** And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. **For Saul said**, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. **1 Samuel 18:18** And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

In some ways this was impossible from the get go!

➤ **A jealous & / paranoid choice!**

1 Samuel 18:9 And Saul **eyed David from that day and forward**. **1 Samuel 18:12** And Saul was **afraid of David**, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. **1 Samuel 18:14** And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. **1 Samuel 18:15** Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, **he was afraid of him**.

1 Samuel 18:16 But **all Israel and Judah loved David**, because he went out and came in before them.

➤ **A devious, manipulative plot**

➤ **An underhanded choice**

➤ **An unthinkable choice**

Does Saul think his daughter were oblivious?

1 Samuel 18:19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, **that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife**.

1 Samuel 18:20 And Michal Saul's daughter **loved David**: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. **1 Samuel 18:21** And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. **Wherefore Saul said to David**, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. **1 Samuel 18:22** And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

1 Samuel 18:26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. **1 Samuel 18:27** Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. **And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife**.

➤ **A failed choice → for everyone!**

1 Samuel 18:28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. **1 Samuel 18:29** And Saul was **yet the more afraid of David**; and Saul became **David's enemy continually**.

Maybe there is hope? But this should have been Merab!

II. A Hard Choice!

1 Samuel 19:8 And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him. **1 Samuel 19:9** And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand. **1 Samuel 19:10** And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

1 Samuel 19:11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. **1 Samuel 19:12** So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

1 Samuel 19:13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. **1 Samuel 19:14** And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. **1 Samuel 19:15** And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. **1 Samuel 19:16** And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. **1 Samuel 19:17** And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

This is the **highlight** of the marriage:

➤ **David doing right & good**

➤ **Saul becoming insanely jealous, suspicious, paranoid,....**

- **Michal warns David**
- **Michal assists David**
- **Michal covers for David**
- **Michal doing this in a not-so-innocent way**

Maybe all is good?

III. A Political Choice!

1 Samuel 25:42 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. **1 Samuel 25:43** David also took **Ahinoam of Jezreel**; and they were also both of them his wives. **1 Samuel 25:44** But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

1 Samuel 18:17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. **1 Samuel 18:19** But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

Thoughts:

- **Michal, as well as Merab, were always seen as useful, political pawns**
- **Politics of the moment**
- **Politics of Saul's whims, emotions &/ impulses**
- **Not so much right but right now**
- **But always politics**

IV. Another Political Choice!

2 Samuel 3:12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee. **2 Samuel 3:13** And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face. **2 Samuel 3:14** And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

2 Samuel 3:15 And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish. **2 Samuel 3:16** And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

Some might want to read this as a long, lost love → David just couldn't live without Michal!

Thoughts:

- **This was years later (lots of water under the bridge)**
- **This was after a long war**

2 Samuel 3:1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

- **David wasn't lacking wives**

2 Samuel 3:2 And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of **Ahinoam** the Jezreelitess; **2 Samuel 3:3** And his second, Chileab, of **Abigail** the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of **Maacah** the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

2 Samuel 3:4 And the fourth, Adonijah the son of **Haggith**; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of **Abital**: **2 Samuel 3:5** And the sixth, Ithream, by **Eglah** David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

- **This was the best & easiest way to solidify a realm → marriage of the opposite party**

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- **This seems to disobey Scripture!**

Deuteronomy 24:3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; **Deuteronomy 24:4** Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

- **This obviously caused great pain to the husband and probably to Michal**

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Is this behind 2 Samuel 6?