

## BRIDES OF SCRIPTURE: MICHAL.

**INTRODUCTION.** The life of David is very instructive, as is the whole of OT history (Rom. 15.4). Much of what he did was noble, and worthy of imitation, but he made blunders that we should avoid. In particular, his association with Bathsheba was disastrous, but earlier in his life, his link with Michal held dangers. There are warnings here for the young believer who is contemplating marriage. Apart from his mother for whom he cared deeply, (1 Sam.22.3-4), Michal was the first woman in David's life. He had been promised her elder sister as a wife, but King Saul reneged on his promise (1 Sam. 17.25, 18.17-19). Saul was not a man of his word as was Caleb (Josh 15.16-17).

### **1. MICHAL DELIGHTED IN DAVID.** 1 Samuel 18.20-29.

Twice over, her love for David was stated, vv.20, 28. However, it seemed to be a passing infatuation which ended in her disdain for him, just as Amnon's "love" for Tamar soon turned to hatred, (2 Sam. 13.15). David was handsome, popular, talented, courageous, and successful, so she loved him! It will emerge that she did not share his spiritual interests.

From David's point of view, the marriage would give him some prestige, v26. There is no statement of his love for her, or any reference to him "enquiring of the Lord" about this matter as he did so often in his life. The motive for the marriage is doubtful.

From Saul's point of view, giving his daughter to David was a sinister plot to endanger him. He anticipated that Michal would be "a snare" to David, v21. Delilah was snare to Samson. He allowed his affection for her to rob him of any spiritual sense that he had. Where there is spiritual incompatibility in a relationship, it will inevitably lead to the ensnaring of the once promising partner. Spiritual compatibility is illustrated in Zacharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1.6).

### **2. MICHAL DELIVERED DAVID.** 1 Samuel 19.11-17. There had been another attempt on David's life, and his home was now under surveillance, v11. To her credit, Michal defied the wrath of her father and aided his escape. He was "let down". Cf. Josh. 2.15, Acts 9.25. (2 Cor. 11.33). Psalm 59 fits in here: see v3.

Sadly, the subsequent events expose Michal as an expert deceiver and liar. She used an image (teraphim, household god). What was she doing with that in the house? Cf Rachel, (Gen.31.19, 30-35). Rachel's must have been tiny but her descendant Michal's was massive! Family features were coming out in Michal!

Goat's hair was used in the deception as in Gen. 27.9-17, 37.31-33.

She told a lie, v14, which led to another lie, v17. It is almost inevitable! Gehazi's lies to Naaman led to him lying to Elisha (2 Kings 5.20-27). Acting a lie led to Sapphira telling a lie (Acts 5.1-11).

The aftermath of this incident was a black period in David's life. In chapters 20 & 21 he was guilty of a three-fold deception himself. He encouraged Jonathan to lie for him, and endangered his life. He deceived Ahimelech the priest thus occasioning his death. He behaved in an undignified way at Gath by feigning madness. Was the

tendency to deceive the result of living with a deceiver? Was Michal's influence unhelpful? Cf the influence of Jezebel on Ahab (1 Kings 21.25).

### **3. MICHAL DESPISED DAVID.** 2 Samuel. 6.16-23.

When David was a fugitive, Saul had given Michal to another man (1 Sam.25.44). As a condition of a peace treaty with Abner that would bring the ten northern tribes of Israel under his control, David insisted that Michal be returned to him. Was it the reaction of an injured pride? At any rate, it proved disastrous for all connected to the situation.

The day came when the ark was to be brought to Jerusalem. This was attended by "gladness" (v.12). Such was David's ecstasy that he shed his kingly robe, and leaped and danced. "All the house of Israel" participated in the celebrations (v.15). A notable absentee was Michal! She didn't share the euphoria, because very evidently, she had no affection for God. She surveyed the scene from her vantage point, and despised David as he exhibited his devotion for Him.

The day ended with David blessing the people and distributing gifts; now he would return home to bless his own household (v20). Such was Michal's fury that she couldn't wait for him to get home, and berated him publicly. Her outburst betrayed cynicism and pride. David's reply exposed the fact that she had resented him replacing her father. It was effectively the end of a relationship that had commenced with love, and concluded with loathing. The once devoted wife had become an embittered opponent.