



MICHAL

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Who is Michal?

Bible accounts

Background information

Who is Michal?

Michal means “who is like YHWH?” She was the younger (second) daughter of King Saul and Ahinoam. She was the wife of David.

Bible accounts:

1 Samuel 14:49; 1 Samuel 18:17-28; 1 Samuel 19:11-17; 1 Samuel 25:44; 2 Samuel 3:12-15; 2 Samuel 6:13-23; 2 Samuel 21:8; 1 Chronicles 15:29.

1 Samuel 14:49 - The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui, and Malchishua. And the names of his two daughters *were these*: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger **Michal**.

1 Samuel 18:17-28 - ¹⁷Then Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the Lord’s battles.” For Saul thought, “Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” ¹⁸So David said to 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?” ¹⁹But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul’s daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.

²⁰Now **Michal**, Saul’s daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. ²¹So Saul said, “I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” Therefore Saul said to David a second time, “You shall be my son-in-law today.” ²²And Saul commanded his servants, “Communicate with David secretly, and say, ‘Look, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become the king’s son-in-law.’ ” ²³So Saul’s servants spoke those words in the hearing of David. And David said, “Does it seem to you a light *thing* to be a king’s son-in-law, seeing I *am* a poor and lightly esteemed man?” ²⁴And the servants of Saul told him, saying, “In this manner David spoke.”

²⁵Then Saul said, “Thus you shall say to David: ‘The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies.’ ” But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. ²⁶So when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to become the king’s son-in-law. Now the days had not expired; ²⁷therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred men of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full count

to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife. ²⁸ Thus Saul saw and knew that the Lord *was* with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him.

1 Samuel 19:11-17 - ¹¹ Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And **Michal**, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." ¹² So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. ¹³ And Michal took an image and laid *it* in the bed, put a cover of goats' *hair* for his head, and covered *it* with clothes. ¹⁴ So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He *is* sick." ¹⁵ Then Saul sent the messengers *back* to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." ¹⁶ And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' *hair* for his head. ¹⁷ Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?' "

1 Samuel 25:44 - But Saul had given **Michal** his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who *was* from Gallim.

2 Samuel 3:12-15 - ¹² Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to David, saying, "Whose *is* the land?" saying *also*, "Make your covenant with me, and indeed my hand *shall be* with you to bring all Israel to you." ¹³ And *David* said, "Good, I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you: you shall not see my face unless you first bring **Michal**, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face." ¹⁴ So David sent messengers to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give *me* my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to myself for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines." ¹⁵ And Ishbosheth sent and took her from *her* husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish.

2 Samuel 6:13-23 - ¹³ And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. ¹⁴ Then David danced before the Lord with all *his* might; and David *was* wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. ¹⁶ Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, **Michal**, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷ So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

¹⁸ And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. ¹⁹ Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece *of meat*, and a cake of raisins. So all the

people departed, everyone to his house. ²⁰Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!”

²¹So David said to Michal, “*It was before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the Lord.* ²²And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.” ²³Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

2 Samuel 21:8,9 - ⁸So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, and **the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;** ⁹and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the Lord. So they fell, *all seven together*, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.

1 Chronicles 15:29 - ²⁹And it happened, *as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the City of David*, that **Michal**, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.

Background information

King Saul offered his first daughter, Merab to David but he gave her to Adriel the Meholathite. Later, King Saul challenged David for the foreskins of Philistines. David was successful and hence, Michal, who was in love with David and became the first wife of David. King Saul’s jealousy and anger on David grew continually that David had to flee one day from him. Michal helped him to escape at that time. During David’s absence, King Saul gave Michal as a wife to Palti (Paltiel) the son of Laish.

David, when approached by Abner to make a covenant with him, replied saying that he needed his wife Michal back. So Ishbosheth (King Saul’s son) brought Michal back from her second husband, Paltiel and sent her to David. During the time when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem, David was dancing and shouting exuberantly in front of it with joy thoroughly enjoying the moment. Michal despised him in her heart and made a sarcastic comment when David came back to bless his household after the sacrificial offerings. David rebuked her for not able to look at his zeal for the true God. Hence, she didn’t have a child until her death. She raised her sister Merab’s five sons whose father



was Adriel and gave them as a ransom to Gibeonites for what King Saul did to them.

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