



MICHAL: A SCORNFUL WIFE BATHSHEBA: A FORGIVEN WIFE

INTRODUCTION

Women have a great influence on the men they marry. Throughout Scripture and history, many men have been encouraged to rise to their God given potential or broken down by the woman they married.

David was called . . . *a man after Mine [God's] own heart* . . . (Acts 13:22b). Yet, in spite of this, he followed the custom of the time by marrying many wives. Some were a great help to him, but others were a hindrance and even a snare.

Let's look at two of these wives. Michal, his first wife, became a snare to David. Her scornfulness and arrogant attitude toward David caused her to never fulfill the destiny that could have been hers. On the other hand, David and Bathsheba began in sin, yet God honored her by putting her in the royal line of Jesus the Messiah.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile*¹ (Psalm 32:1, 2).

¹ *guile*: sly and cunning; the ability to deceive.

Names Given to the Women in this Story

Merab Saul's elder daughter wife of Adriel	<i>And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife. . .</i> (I Samuel 18:17a). <i>Merab</i> in Hebrew means – increase or multiplication. She was the eldest daughter of King Saul, who was promised to David as a wife for the victory over Goliath. Saul, however, gave her to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife instead (I Samuel 18:19).
Michal Saul's daughter wife of David	<i>. . . Saul's daughter [Michal] loved David . . .</i> (I Samuel 18:20a). <i>. . . And Saul gave him [David] Michal his daughter to wife</i> (I Samuel 18:27b). <i>Michal</i> in Hebrew means - who is like Jehovah? She was David's first wife. Michal was King Saul's younger daughter. It was customary for the elder daughter to marry before the younger.
Bathsheba daughter of Eliam wife of Uriah wife of David	<i>. . . Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?</i> (II Samuel 11:3). The wife of David who became the mother of Solomon who became king of Israel. <i>Bathsheba</i> means – seventh daughter – daughter of an oath. <i>Bath</i> is - daughter and <i>sheba</i> is - seven in Hebrew.

SECTION I - Michal, a Woman Who Loved

King Saul had stopped following the Lord wholeheartedly; because of his disobedience, his kingdom was to be given to another (I Samuel 13:13, 14, I Samuel 15:1-28). Samuel, the prophet of God, anointed David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be the next king (I Samuel 16:1-13). From that time, the Lord's hand was upon David's life, preparing him for what lay ahead.

Michal entered the scene as an impressionable young princess. She was quite taken with David, a handsome, musically gifted newcomer in the King's court. His fame preceded him because he had killed Goliath the giant (I Samuel 17), which brought great deliverance for Israel. David had gone from being a shepherd boy to a position of prominence and favor in the eyes of King Saul, Michal's father. In I Samuel 16:21 *Saul . . . loved him [David] greatly*. However, Saul's feelings and plans for David would soon take a drastic turn.

READ I Samuel Chapter 18.

1. What is said about Jonathan's² love for David (vv. 1-4)? _____³

How did Jonathan demonstrate it? _____

² Jonathan – Hebrew *Jahnuhthuhn* Yahweh has given: he was the first son of King Saul and heir to the throne.

³ loved – Hebrew *ahab* love, affection: a term used for political, commercial, and friendship covenants (see I King 5:1). Jonathan made a covenant of friendship with David.

2. What is said about David (v. 5)? _____

3. What happened in this portion of Scripture that changed Saul's attitude toward David (vv. 6-8)?

4. How did God's grace on David affect Saul (v. 9)? _____

4

Saul became jealous of David. The Bible describes jealousy as . . . *cruel as the grave*⁵: *the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame* (Song of Solomon 8:6). A man consumed with the sin of jealousy⁶ is acting in the flesh⁷. If left unrepentant, this sin has often been known to progress into murder.

5. Saul's jealousy produced wicked behavior in him. Under demonic influence, what did he attempt to do to David (I Samuel 18:10, 11)?

6. Why was Saul afraid of David (vv. 12-15)? _____

7. In spite of Saul's intentions, how were the people reacting toward David (v. 16)? _____

8. How did Saul use his eldest daughter Merab to seek to kill David (v. 17)? _____

9. What was David's humble response to the King's offer (v. 18)? _____

⁴ eyed: to watch (with jealousy); eye.

⁵ *grave*: sheol, hades, the world of the dead, hell, pit.

⁶ jealousy: a desire for something that rightly belongs to another; intolerant and hostile of rivalry, King James Version renders jealousy as emulations (Galatians 5:20).

⁷ flesh: man walking in his own carnal lusts and not in the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-21).

10. Who was Michal? What is first said about her (v. 20)? _____

What was Saul's reaction? _____

11. How did King Saul continue in his plot to harass and kill David (v. 21)? _____

12. DESCRIBE the scheme King Saul continued to get rid of David (vv. 22-27)? _____

How did David acquire Michal, the King's daughter to be his bride? _____

13. How did God bless David (v. 28)? _____

Saul sinned against the LORD for he knew that *the LORD was with David*.

14. CONTRAST King Saul's behavior with that of David, the future King of Israel (v. 29, 30). _____

SECTION 2 - A Woman Who Protected

READ I Samuel 19:1-17.

1. How did Saul continue to plot the murder of David (v. 1)? _____

2. How did Jonathan, Saul's son, intercede for David (vv. 2-7)? _____

How did King Saul respond to his son's godly counsel? _____

3. God continued to be with David. How did Saul's persistent rebellion⁸ give free access for the evil spirit to torment him and cause him to pursue the life of David (vv. 8-10a)?

4. David fled and Saul set a watch on David's house. What did Michal warn David of (v. 11)? _____

5. How did Michal protect David from her father (v. 12)? _____

6. What plot did Michal devise to cover David's escape (vv. 13, 14)? _____⁹

7. How did Michal betray her father in order to protect David (vv. 15-17)? _____

⁸ rebellion: revolt, uprising, insurgence, mutiny; *rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry* (I Samuel 15:23).

⁹ image: Teraphim, the god of healing; a family idol and means of divination. This idol resembled a man in size and appearance.

PERSONAL

EXAMINE the condition of your heart. Do you have jealousy toward anybody beginning to take root in your heart?

What will you do to rid yourself of it? Jealousy will ultimately destroy you. _____

SECTION 3 - A Woman Who Scorned

David was hunted and pursued by King Saul until the day when King Saul was killed along with his son Jonathan who fought bravely at his side. During this time David took several new wives. In his absence, Saul gave Michal to Phalti as his wife (I Samuel 25:44). David was then made king over Judah, but Abner the captain of Saul's army had taken Ishbosheth, Saul's son, and made him reign as king over all Israel (II Samuel 2). Many long years of war followed until Abner, after being falsely accused and greatly offended by Ishbosheth, decided to make a league with David. He would be helpful in gathering all Israel to David. Abner knew that David was anointed to be king by the Lord (II Samuel 3:1-11). We can assume that David had not seen Michal since he escaped out the window of their room, since no mention of it is given in Scripture (I Samuel 19:12).

READ II Samuel 3:12-16 and II Samuel Chapter 6.

1. What did David require before he would make an alliance with Abner (II Samuel 3:12, 13)? _____

2. What did David want Ishbosheth to do (v. 14)? _____

3. What did Michal's husband do? What did Abner tell him to do (vv. 15, 16)? _____

David is now established as king over Israel. The Lord put it on his heart to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. On the way Uzzah, the driver of the cart, touched the ark so the Lord struck him dead. Because of this David left it at the home of Obededom and the Lord blessed Obededom. But after three months David decided to bring the ark into the City of David¹⁰ (II Samuel 6:1-12).

¹⁰ City of David: Jerusalem, the stronghold of Zion.

4. How did David worship the Lord (II Samuel 6:13, 14)? _____

11

5. How did the people respond (v. 15)? _____

6. How did Michal react to David's great joy and worship to God (v. 16)? _____

7. In celebration of this great occasion, what did David do for the people of Israel (vv. 17-19)? _____

8. What did he return home to do (v. 20)? _____

How did Michal greet him? _____

PERSONAL

How do you respond to your spouse, children, or family member who put God first in their lives?

Do you put Him above all else? _____

9. How did David rebuke Michal (vv. 21, 22)? _____

¹¹ ephod: a linen vest worn by an ordinary priest over his robe and associated with service in the temple. It was much shorter than the usual outer garment.

10. What happened in Michal's final encounter with David (v. 23)? _____

The only other mention of Michal is when her five nephews, sons of Adriel and her sister Merab, whom she raised, were delivered by order of King David to the Gibeonites to be hanged. This was done because of Saul's sin against the Gibeonites (II Samuel 21:1-9).

SECTION 4 - Bathsheba, a Sin Committed

READ II Samuel 11:1-5.

The story begins *when the kings go forth to battle* (II Samuel 11:1). One important statement was made regarding David the King of Israel in the opening verse of chapter 11 . . . *but David tarried still at Jerusalem*. Instead of going out with his soldiers and military leaders, he remained at home.

1. What happened when David got up from his bed and went onto his roof (v. 2)? _____

2. David sought information about the woman he had seen. What did he find out (v. 3)? _____

Eliam was the son of one of David's gallant officers. Uriah was one of David's most loyal officers. Bathsheba's family was well known to David.

3. In spite of what David learned in his inquiry, what did he do next (v. 4)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ James 1:12-15 which speaks to us about dealing with temptation. What is the reward to those who overcome temptation?

DESCRIBE the progression of sin. _____

What should be our response when a thought enters our mind tempting us to sin (II Corinthians 10:4, 5)?

What does God promise in His Word regarding temptation (I Corinthians 10:13)? _____

How are we commanded to resist the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)? _____

PERSONAL

Are you being tempted to sin? MEDITATE on Psalm 119:11, *Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.* PRAY and ASK the LORD to guide you through His Word to resist the temptation.

4. Bathsheba sent an important message back to David. What did she say (II Samuel 11:5)? _____

SECTION 5 - Sin Covered

READ II Samuel 11:6-27.

1. What was the pretense under which David sent for Bathsheba's husband, Uriah (vv. 6, 7)? _____

2. David told Uriah to go home and sent him with a gift of food. What did Uriah do (vv. 8, 9)? _____

3. David questions Uriah's actions. SUMMARIZE what Uriah replied (vv. 10, 11). _____

4. What was David's final attempt to get Uriah to go home and lie with his wife (vv. 12, 13)? _____

5. The next morning Uriah returned to battle. What new plan did David devise (vv. 14, 15)? _____

Who delivered David's letter to Joab? _____

6. Joab heeded David's orders. Where did he place Uriah (vv. 16, 17)? _____

What inevitably happened to Uriah? _____

Joab lost several of his men in battle along with Uriah. In sending his messengers to David concerning the war, he specifically let him know that Uriah was dead. This would appease the king's anger over the loss of men in Joab's questionable battle strategy. David, understanding that his plan was successful, sent an encouraging word back to Joab (II Samuel 11:18-25).

7. How did Bathsheba react to the news of her husband's death (II Samuel 11:26)? _____

8. When Bathsheba finished her time of mourning what did David do (v. 27)? _____

Complete the verse . . . *But the thing that David had done* _____ *the Lord.*

PERSONAL

What do we need to realize concerning the sin that we seek to cover?

Proverbs 28:13 _____

Luke 12:2, 3 _____

SECTION 6 - Sin Revealed

READ II Samuel 12:1-13.

Being displeased, the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to show David that he could not hide his sin from Him.

1. In your own words, WRITE the story Nathan told David (vv. 1-4). _____

2. What was David's reaction (vv. 5, 6)? _____

What penalty would David give the rich man? _____

David said that the rich man had shown no pity and needed to restore the lamb fourfold. Yet David had shown no pity on Uriah when he was in battle and took his wife.

3. WRITE Nathan's response to David's judgment (v. 7a). _____

4. How had the Lord blessed David (vv. 7b, 8)? _____

5. What did Nathan say David despised (v. 9)? _____

David had done evil in whose sight? _____

What sins did Nathan reveal? _____

6. What judgment was put upon David because of his sin (vv. 10, 11)? _____

Why? _____

David sinned secretly. David would pay the consequences of his sin before all Israel and the sun (v. 12).

7. Nathan continued to tell David all the evil that would come upon him because of his sin. How did David respond (v. 13a)?

LOOK DEEPER

Psalm 51 gives insight into David's true heart of repentance. Even though David understood there would be consequences as a result of his sin, what were some of the humble requests David makes of the Lord?

8. What promise did the Lord make to David after his confession of sin (II Samuel 12:13b)? _____

PERSONAL

When you are caught in sin what is your reaction to it? What does the Bible say we are to do? What will God do (I John 1:9)?

SECTION 7 - Sin's Consequences

READ II Samuel 12:14-25.

1. What did David's sin cause (v. 14)? _____

What prophetic statement did Nathan make regarding the child born to Bathsheba? _____

2. When the Lord struck the child, what did David do (vv. 15-17)? _____

3. What happened on the seventh day (vv. 18, 19)? _____

David's spiritual struggle with the LORD ended. David accepted God's correction.

4. How did David comfort himself (vv. 20-23)? _____

5. Bathsheba grieved over the death of her son and David comforted her. In spite of the sin they committed, God forgave them and continued to use them both. WRITE how God blessed them. (II Samuel 12:24, 25).

What did Nathan the prophet call him? _____¹²

Adonijah,¹³ one of the sons of David, exalted himself to be king when King David was advanced in years and lie in bed.

¹² Jedidiah: beloved of the LORD.

¹³ Adonijah: son of Haggith, brother of Absalom who also tried to take the kingdom from their father the King of Israel.

6. SUMMARIZE Bathsheba's attitude as she goes before David, and David's response to her (I Kings 1:1-40).

MEMORY VERSE

(Psalm 32:1, 2).

Michal and Bathsheba were two women who desired and loved David, God's chosen king. We learn from Michal that her desire appeared to be for prestige and position, rather than a true love for David and the God he served. Had she embraced a heart after God, like David did and repented from her idolatry and wrongful judgment of David, how different her marriage and life might have been. Michal's life ended in obscurity without the recorded blessing of having sins forgiven. In her spirit appeared to be guile and bitterness, evidenced by her attitude towards David's rejoicing over the works of the Lord. How much better a repentant heart and the blessing of forgiveness would have been.

We learn from Bathsheba that she was a woman who did not let sin ruin her life. Though she mourned over the death of her husband, Uriah, and later the death of her child, she received the love and comfort of the King of Israel and ultimately, by his God. Repentant and forgiven, she chose to live a life pleasing to the Lord. She became the mother of King Solomon and is mentioned in the lineage of Jesus the King of kings (Matthew 1:6).

NOTES: _____

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