



## 2019 YEAR OF SCRIPTURE

### Monthly Devotions

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#### 1 Samuel 18 – 1 Chronicle 2

- Kingdoms United
  - Each of the 12 tribes of Israel were loosely tied together by the rulership of judges
    - Because of outside threats, the 12 tribes want to come together under one king
    - Saul is that transitional king
  - Saul's leadership
    - Anointed by Samuel
    - Military king
    - Bridge between season of judges and season of kings
    - David is being prepared to be king during the end of Saul's reign
  - David's leadership
    - Unites the northern and southern tribes and expands the empire
    - Makes neutral Jerusalem the capital and brings Ark of the Covenant there
    - Extremely successful- trust in Jerusalem and David's line continuing forever
    - Keeps kingdom together in face of civil war
    - Uses power for evil- Bathsheba/Uriah → beginning of the end
  - Solomon's leadership
    - Time of great wealth
    - Builds temple and takes on other major building projects
    - Unfair distribution of wealth and an incompetent successor son contribute to the fall of the united kingdom
- Kingdoms Divided
  - Judah- Southern Kingdom
    - Tribes of Judah and Benjamin
    - Kept Jerusalem
    - 350 years of rulers in David's line
    - On a hill so not great for farming or trade
  - Israel- Northern Kingdom
    - Other 10 tribes
    - 200 years of kings not related to David
    - Fertile land near water
    - 8/19 kings killed by assassination



- Near Canaanites so they had to put up with Baal worship

So that's a lot! If you would like a more detailed outline, check out [enterthebible.org](http://enterthebible.org). For this study we will focus on Michal, David's first wife, and her role in his kingship.

First, it's important to remember that marriage during David's time and marriage during our time are two different things. In Biblical times, marriage was almost entirely used for financial or political gain. Today, thankfully, marriages are founded on mutual love and respect.

Each section has a single verse, a summary of what happened, any other important information, and then a question to ponder. In between each section is a brief description of what happened in between the passages we will focus on.

Grab your Bible and read each full passage below. Discuss what stuck out to you and/or the question provided for 3-5 minutes.

- 1 Samuel 18: 17-29 – “Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David” (vs 20)
  - Saul plans to get David killed, but instead David is victorious in war and wins the hand of Saul's younger daughter Michal
  - She loved him which was not necessary for marriage at the time

Question to ponder: Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney notes, “Michal is the only woman in scripture said to love a man who is not her son.”<sup>1</sup> How might that come into play later in Michal's story?

[Jonathan intercedes for David]

- 1 Samuel 19:8-17 – “David's wife Michal told him, ‘If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.’” (vs 11)
  - Michal saves David from Saul's wrath

Question to ponder: Has there been a time in your life where you had to let go of something/someone even though it was hard? How do you think Michal might have felt?

[Lots of life happens]

- 1 Samuel 25:42-44- “Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Palti son of Laish, who was from Gallim.” (vs44)
  - David marries several other women. Michal is remarried to Palti

Question to ponder: Legally in this time, men could have multiple wives, but women were only allowed to have one husband. What might it mean that Michal has been married off again?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wilgafney.com/2018/07/>



[Politically motivated leads everything]

- 2 Samuel 3:12-16 – “He said, ‘Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you: you shall never appear in my presence unless you bring Saul’s daughter Michal when you come to see me.’” (vs 13)
  - David asks for his wife Michal back for a political move. Her husband comes with her and then he is sent away.

Question to ponder: Is David calling Michal back good news or bad news for Michal? Or maybe both?

[Arc of Covenant Moved to Jerusalem]

- 2 Samuel 6:14-23 – “As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.” (vs 16)
  - Arc is being moved. David dances mostly naked. Michal “despised him in her heart.” She calls him out, he says it was in honor of God, and she has no children.

Question to ponder: Is Michal justified in her response to David? Why or why not?

- Final thoughts:
  - How is God moving in and through you as a result of this study?
  - Have you learned something new?
  - What challenged you?
  - How does this apply to your life?

Let us pray: Good and gracious God we give you thanks for bringing us together today to dwell in your word. We know that you are with us, you remain with us, in the joys and challenges of life. You remained with David, your anointed one, even though he messed up again and again. You remained with Michal as she struggled through unrequited love, being used as a political pawn, humiliation, and childlessness. We know that you are with us, no matter what we might be experiencing in life. Bless us as we go from this place that your love might overflow from us into the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

