

## David and Michal, Worshiping God

### Introduction:

We already learned that David won Saul's daughter Michal's heart. He paid for her with the foreskins of 200 dead Philistines. When Saul was chasing David, Michal helped him escape and put an idol with goatskin hair in the bed in his place. Later, Saul gave Michal in marriage to another man, Paltiel the son of Laish.

### Story:

Abner, the commander of Saul's armies, took advantage of the ongoing war between the house of Saul and the house of David after Saul's death. He tried to gain power for himself. Abner began to sleep with one of Saul's concubines. (Concubines were passed down from one king to another so this was like staking a claim for the throne of Israel.) This angered Saul's son Ishbosheth who had already been crowned king over Israel. (David was king over Judah at this time.) Ishbosheth confronted Abner about what he had done. Abner got very angry because he felt Ishbosheth was ungrateful for all he'd done for the house of Saul. He sent word to David that he would help David reign over all of Israel.

David sent word back to Abner that he'd make an agreement with him if Abner would bring his wife, Michal, back to him. Then he sent word to Ishbosheth that his wife should be returned to him. Ishbosheth took her from Paltiel, her new husband. Paltiel followed her crying all the way to Abner's. Abner sent him away.

Then Abner sent word to the leaders of Israel that it was now time to make David their king. Then he went to the house of Benjamin (Saul's tribe). He reported to David in Hebron that it was time to take the kingdom. After a feast, Abner went on his way. Unfortunately, Joab had a grudge against Abner for the murder of his brother and killed him. David mourned the death of Abner.

Ishbosheth was greatly distressed when he heard Abner had been killed. All of Israel was troubled. Baanah and Rechab, the sons of Rimmon, were the captains of Ishbosheth's troops. These two men decided to stab Ishbosheth while he rested on his bed. They beheaded him and took the head to David. They told David he was avenged of his enemy Saul.

David told them how angry he had been over someone killing Saul. He felt angrier still that an innocent man had been killed in his own bed. So David had Baanah and Rechab killed.

Then all the tribe of Israel came to David in Hebron and asked him to be their king. David was 30 years old when he became king over Israel. He ruled over the combined kingdoms of Israel and Judah for 40 years.

David took his men to Jerusalem to defeat the Jebusites. The Jebusites didn't believe David could defeat them because they'd been in control of the city since the days of Joshua. First, David captured the fortress of Zion. It became known as the City of David ever after. David said, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft, targeting their water system, shall become chief and captain."

David made the fortress his home. He built the city from the outside landfill area inward. David became great because the Lord of Hosts was with him.

King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David along with cedar timbers, carpenters, and masons in order to build a house for David. This gift showed that other kings regarded David as the king over a nation not just a tribe. Then David knew that God had made him king over Israel. God made Israel known to the rest of the world for the sake of His people.

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king, they went to find him. David went down to the stronghold. The Philistines gathered together in the Valley of Rephaim.

David asked the Lord if He would help David defeat the Philistines. The Lord said He would give the Philistines over to David. So David went to a place called Baal Perazim (which means "Master of Breakthroughs"). David defeated the Philistines there, and he said, "God broke through my enemies like a breakthrough or gushing of water."

The Philistines went up to the Valley of Rephaim a second time. David prayed to God. God said, "Don't attack them face-on. Go around behind them and ambush them from the grove of mulberry trees. When you hear the sound of marching in the mulberry trees, get ready to attack. It's a sign that God is going ahead of you to strike the Philistine camp." David did as God told him and drove back the Philistines from Gibeon to Gezer.

Then David gathered together his best men, 30,000 of them, and went to Baalah to get the Ark of the Covenant. They set the ark on a new cart and brought it out of Abinadab's house. Abinadab's sons, Uzzah and Ahio, drove the cart.

Then David and all the people of Israel made a sort of parade, playing music on all kinds of instruments. When they got to Nachon's threshing floor, the oxen stumbled. Uzzah put out his hand to steady the ark. God got angry with Uzzah and struck him dead because not even the priests were allowed to touch the ark or look into it. It was holy to the Lord.

David became afraid of the Lord. He wondered how he could ever get it back to the City of David when it was so dangerous to move it. He decided to move the ark to Obed-Edom's house. It stayed there for 3 months. God blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

A report came to King David that God had blessed Obed-Edom and his household because of the ark. David decided to bring the ark up to the City of David.

There was a great celebration as the ark was brought up from Obed-Edom's. The ark was carried on the shoulders of the priests (God's way to transport the ark). Every six steps oxen and sheep were sacrificed to God.

David was dressed in the linen robe of a priest. He danced before the Lord with all his strength. David and the people were shouting and blowing the trumpets.

As the ark entered the City of David, Michal looked out her window and saw David dancing. He was leaping and twirling before the Lord. (This kind of dancing accompanied all major victories, but it was always done by women not men. No king had ever danced like this before.) Michal was embarrassed and despised David.

They brought the ark and set it in place in the Tabernacle of David. David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. Then he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Hosts. He gave the people a loaf of bread, a date cake and a raisin cake. Then all the people went home.

When David went home to bless his own family, Michal, Saul's daughter, came out to greet him. She said, "Look how the king of Israel displayed himself today! He exposed himself in the streets of Israel for all the maidservants to see."

David replied, "**In GOD's presence I'll dance all I want! He chose me over your father and the rest of our family and made me prince over GOD's people, over Israel. Oh yes, I'll dance to GOD's glory—more recklessly even than this. And as far as I'm concerned...I'll gladly look like a fool...but among these maids you're so worried about, I'll be honored no end.**" (II Samuel 6:21-22)

Michal became a barren woman and never had children.

### **Summary:**

**Over and over in this story we see how God was with David. He was God's chosen king. God gave him victories over all his enemies. David was grateful for God's blessings in his life.**

**He was a worshiper. He wrote many psalms to worship God. Some were written while he was a shepherd boy tending his father's sheep. Some were written while he was fleeing from King Saul. He continued to write them throughout his life. It was natural for a man with such a heart to worship God to want God's ark that symbolized His presence to be placed in his capital city. He set up the Tabernacle, a tent home,**

for God's ark. It was a place where God was worshipped 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. David knew that it was more important to worship God than to care about what people thought of him. That's why he danced and twirled in the streets of the city dressed in nothing but a linen robe. He embraced God's presence with a humble heart and with sheer joy. He didn't care if he looked like a fool for God.

Michal missed the point. She was more concerned that David act kingly than that he worship God with all his heart. Like her father, Saul, she was caught up in pride, worried about what people would think. Because of her wrong attitude, she lost the ability to have children. What a price to pay for pride and scorn!

What about you? Do you know that you were born to worship God? God created man to have fellowship, an intimate relationship with Him. Out of our love for God, we naturally want to worship and praise Him. One of the reasons that David was "a man after God's own heart" was because he worshiped God with everything that was in him. Are you willing to look like a fool for God? David was.

One of David's most famous psalms is Psalm 100. It is called a psalm of giving thanks. This is what it says:

**Shout with joy to the LORD, O earth!**

**Worship the LORD with gladness.  
Come before him, singing with joy.**

**Acknowledge that the LORD is God!  
He made us, and we are his.  
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

**For the LORD is good.  
His unfailing love continues forever,  
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.**

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What did Saul do with Michal after he started chasing David? Do you think this was fair?
2. What was Abner trying to do?
3. How did Ishbosheth die? How did David feel about his death?
4. How old was David when he became king over Israel and Judah and how many years did he reign?
5. How did David defeat the Jebusites who thought they were unconquerable?
6. Where did David make his home, his capital city?
7. What did the King of Tyre send David? What did this show David?
8. What was the name of the place where David first defeated the Philistines? What was the significance of that name?
9. How did God tell David to defeat the Philistines the second time they attacked?
10. When David went to get the Ark of the Covenant, why did God strike Uzzah dead?
11. What happened to Obed-Edom when David stored the ark at his house?
12. The second time David tried to take the ark to Jerusalem, he handled everything differently. What did he do?
13. Why was David dancing before the Lord with all his strength in the city streets?
14. Why did Michal despise David?
15. What did David do when he set up the ark in the Tabernacle of David?
16. When David went home to bless his family, what did Michal say to him? What was she concerned with?
17. What was David's response to her? What does this tell you about David's relationship with God?
18. What happened to Michal after this argument with David?

