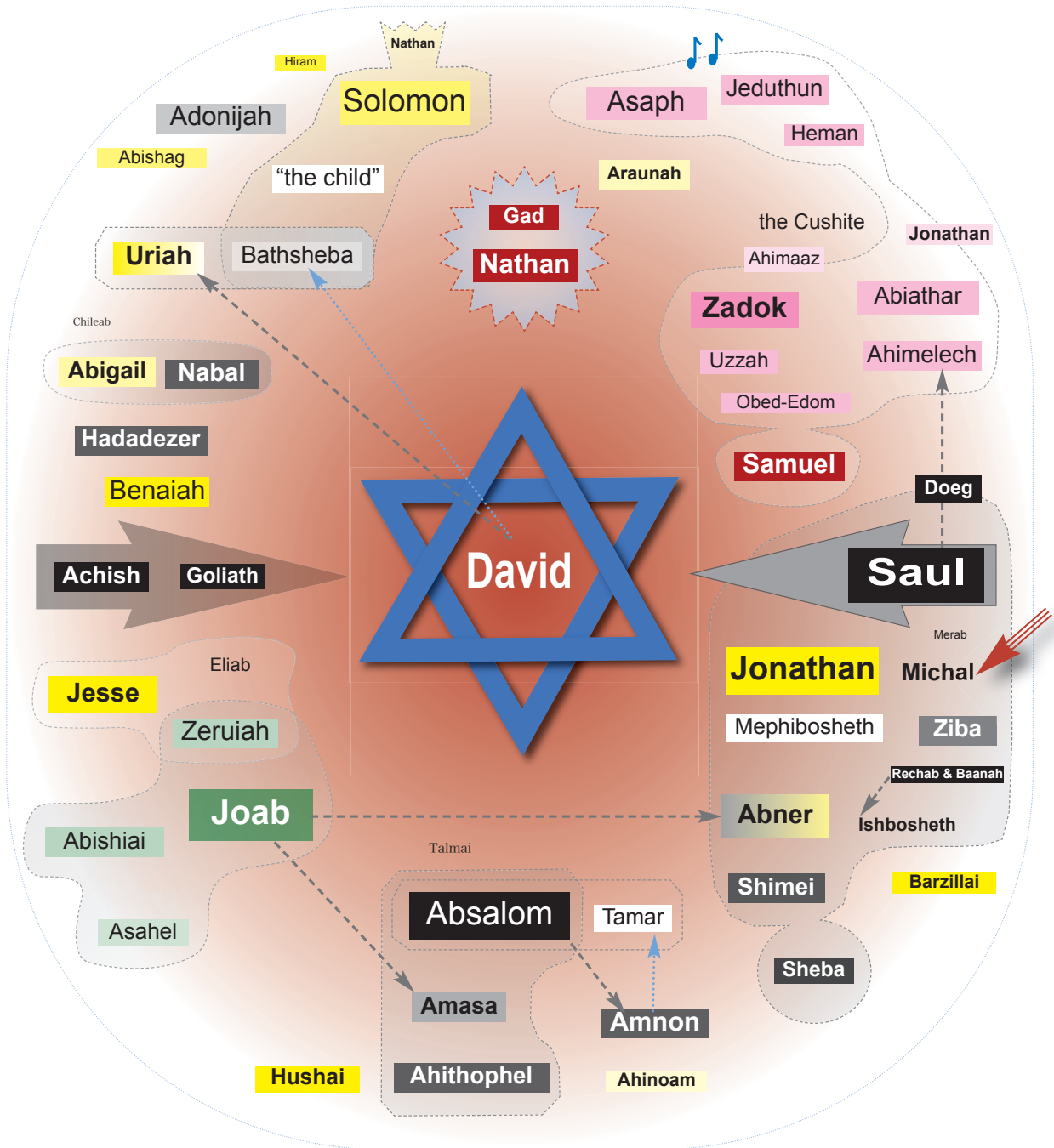


surrounded



people in the life of David

about Michal

1. Michal was the younger of the two daughters of King Saul (1 Sam. 14:49), who was given to David as a wife in place of the older daughter Merab who was originally promised to him for defeating Goliath (1 Sam. 17:25, 18:19).

2. Michal's marriage to David was arranged by her father. How much she knew, if anything, of Saul's evil desire for her to be a snare to David (1 Sam. 18:21) so that he would be killed by the Philistines, is not stated.

3. Michal probably married David before she was 20 years old. Her time with him as a young bride, however, was undoubtedly quite short, since Saul soon drove him away.

4. According to 1 Sam. 25:44 Michal was later given to Paltiel, who is seen in some detail in 2 Sam. 3:12-16. Though he probably treated her well, he does not seem to have been very manly or have had much authority. He cried when she was returned to David, but it doesn't say that she wept, as well.

5. Michal may have lived fifty years or more since she is mentioned in both First and Second Samuel. Little or nothing is said about her after Second Samuel six, however. (See 2 Sam. 21:8.)

6. Perhaps the most revealing passage regarding Michal is 2 Sam. 6:16-23 which shows that she did not share David's joy in the Lord at the coming of the Ark to Jerusalem. Instead she was more concerned about proper outward appearance.

questions

1. Two basic questions that should be asked about Michal are if she was a good wife to David or not and, if not, why wasn't she. Another key question that relates to these, of course, is if she was a person of faith like David was.

2. When she had the opportunity to betray David into her father's hands did Michal actually do so? See 1 Sam. 19:11-17. Did she side with her father, Saul, or with her husband, David, at that crucial point?

3. How does Michal compare to David's other wives? Was she as wise and unselfish as Abigail in First Samuel ch. 25. Was she as sinful as Bathsheba in Second Samuel ch. 11?

4. One wonders why Michal went along with a second marriage to Paltiel (1 Sam. 25:44) if she truly loved David (1 Sam. 18:20). Was she forced to marry him instead of David? We don't know, but it's clear that she didn't have any choice later regarding returning to David in 2 Sam. ch. three.

5. Why did David require Abner to take Michal from her second husband and to return her to himself? (See 2 Sam. 3:12-16.) Was his motivation political? Was it the proper thing for him to do in light of Deut. 24:4? If it was improper why didn't Nathan or another prophet confront him about it? Notice that David already had six other wives (2 Sam. 3:2-5).

6. What does Michal having an idol in her home (1 Sam. 19:13) show about her faith and character?

Michal was...

Read about Michal in 1 Sam. 18:17-30, 19:11-17, 25:44, 2 Sam. 3:12-16, and 6:16-23.

() a good wife?

- () a snare to David (1 Sam. 18:21, 19:11-12)?
 - () in love with David (1 Sam. 18:20, 25:44)?
 - () loyal to David, like Jonathan (1 Sam. 19:11-17, 25:44)?
 - () a strong practical woman (19:11-12)?
 - () an adulteress like Bathsheba (1 Sam. 25:44)?
 - () an idolatrous woman (1 Sam. 19:13, 16)?
 - () proud, worldly (2 Sam. 6:16-22)?
-

() a happy wife?

- () misused by her father, Saul (18:21, 25:44)?
 - () loved by David (1 Sam. 18:22-27, 2 Sam. 3:13-16)?
 - () neglected by David (2 Sam. 6:20-23)?
 - () a mother of five children (2 Sam. 6:23, 21:8-9)?
 - () happy to return to David (2 Sam. 3:12-16)?
 - () loved by Paltiel (2 Sam. 3:12-16)?
 - () a victim of circumstances?
-
-
-
-
-

conclusions and applications

Mark the descriptive terms and phrases above as correct (*), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲).

Michal

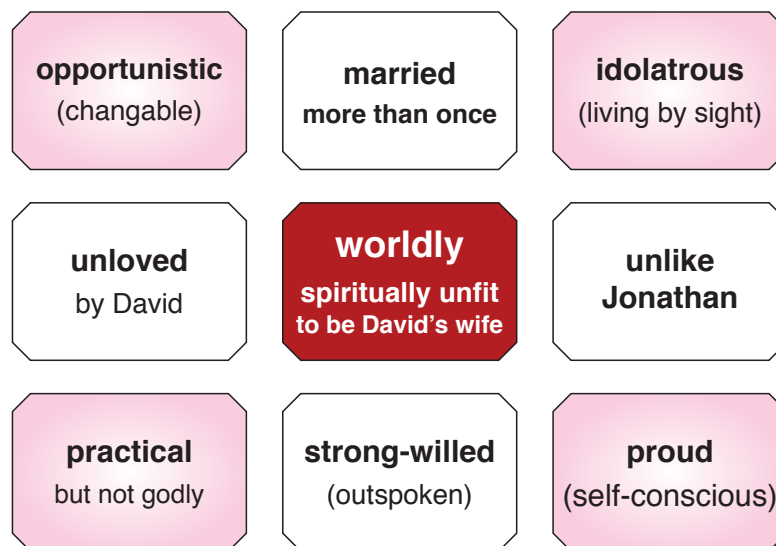
If you had to choose just one key thing to say about Michal what would it be? Perhaps the main thing that should be said about her is that she was a worldly woman and therefore spiritually unfit to be David's wife.

Physically Michal was young and healthy when she married David, even being strong enough to lower him down from an upper floor window (1 Sam. 19:12). Moreover, she was practical and wise in her assessment of the danger to David from her father, advising him and shrewdly helping him to flee and escape (19:11-14). Thus, physically, mentally, and politically she was a fitting help for David.

Even so, Michal was unlike David spiritually. She did not share his joy in the Lord, as seen in 2 Sam. ch. six when the ark of the covenant came into Jerusalem. David was overjoyed, but she was overly conscious of what people would think. Moreover, whereas loyalty was characteristic of David and Jonathan, Michal was opportunistic, as seen in her marriage to Paltiel (1 Sam. 25:44). As a king's daughter and a strong-willed individual she probably had some say in the matter, as indicated by her outspoken and critical words to David in Second Samuel six.

These points and a few others are shown in the summary diagram below. The fact that Michal was worldly and spiritually unfit for David is placed in the center and the other points around the periphery lend support to it.

Michal was...



The obvious application for us is to be people of faith like David and Jonathan rather than worldly like Michal. Though 1 Sam. 19:13 doesn't directly say that she was a worshipper of idols, other passages show that she lived mostly by what she saw. What about us? Are we living by sight or by faith in the unseen God?