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# Sha'ul's Jealousy of David
# First Samuel 18: 10-30

**Sha'ul's jealousy of David DIG: What resulted from Sha'ul's deep jealousy of David? Why do people see Sha'ul and David so differently? Why does Sha'ul offer his oldest daughter in marriage? Why did she marry another instead? Why did Sha'ul offer Michal to David? Why did David continue to refuse to become the king's son-in-law? Do you think David suspected Sha'ul's motives? Why or why not? How did Sha'ul react when his offer was accepted? What did that say about Sha'ul's relationship to ADONAI? Why weren't any of Sha'ul's plots against David successful?**

**REFLECT: How can popularity and praise from people test and prepare someone? How do you respond to someone out to get you, either personally or professionally? Why has your jealousy been aroused by someone dismissing your achievements in relation to a rival? What do such interpersonal relationships reveal about your relationship to God? In what area of your life do you compare yourself to others? Do you compare your weaknesses to others' strengths? Does that work for you?**

**Jealousy got into Sha'ul's soul, and ripened until it became a murderous intent.**

At one time, **Sha'ul** loved **David (First Samuel 16:21)**, but **his** attitude changed into jealousy and then hatred. **ADONAI** was with **David**, however, and **Sha'ul** was not permitted to harm **him**. During the five years that **David** was a fugitive (see **the Life of David, to see link click Au – David on the Run**), **YHVH** not only thwarted **Sha'ul's** plans repeatedly, but **He** even used **the king's** hostility to mature **David** and make **him** into a man of courage and faith. While **Sha'ul** was guarding **his** throne, **David** was being prepared to replace **him**.[364]



**Sha'ul Tries to Kill David by the Spear:** Jealousy got into **Sha'ul's** soul, and it ripened until it became a murderous intent **(James 1:13-15)**. **The** very **next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Sha'ul who went into a frenzy while David was playing the lyre, as David usually did. Sha'ul had a spear in his hand** (serving as **his** scepter) **and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall."** Before the music had had its effect, **Sha'ul** had **twice** made an attempt on **David's** life. To **Sha'ul**, **David** came to represent the enemy. **Sha'ul was afraid of David, because ADONAI was with David, but had departed from Sha'ul (18:10-12). Note the gradual growth of Sha'ul's hatred. First, he was afraid of David (verse 12), then he stood in awe of him (verse 15), then he was even more afraid (verse 29), and in the end he gave orders for David's assassination (29:1).**

Faith is living without scheming, but **Sha'ul** was better at scheming than in trusting **God**. If **the king** disobeyed **YHVH**, **he** always had an excuse ready to get **himself** out of trouble, and if people challenged **his** leadership, **he** simply got rid of them. Possessed by anger, paranoia and envy, and determined to hold on to **his** crown, **Sha'ul** decided that **David** needed to die.[365] **The king** apparently hoped that **David**, a young and inexperienced officer, (only about 22 years old at the time) would be killed leading **his** men into battle. **So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns.** But **in everything David did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. When Sha'ul saw how successful David was, he stood in awe** (Hebrew: *gur*) **of him. And all Isra'el and Judah loved David, because he led them** to victory **in their campaigns** and **he** became the darling of **the people.** This only increased **Sha'ul's** fear of **David** all the more

**(18:13-16).**

**Sha'ul Tries to Kill David by the Philistines:** This involved the story of two of **Sha'ul's daughters**. **Sha'ul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merav. I will give her to you as your wife."** This should have already taken place because of **Sha'ul's** promise to give **his daughter** to whoever **killed Goliath** (see **Cq – David Kills Goliath**). But now there was a new condition he wanted to add: **only continue displaying your courage for me, and fight ADONAI's battles. Sha'ul was thinking, "I don't dare touch him** or **the people** would turn against **me, so let the Philistines do away with him."** Again, **his** hope was that **David** would die in battle. But what **Sha'ul** wanted to do to **David**, **David** would later do to **Uriah the Hittite** (see **the Life of David Dc – David and Bathsheba**). **David's response to Sha'ul was** appreciation: **Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Isra'el, that I should become the king's son-in-law?** Now **David** probably does sense a trap. However, **he** did not clearly reject the offer and **he** fulfilled the added condition of defeating **the Philistines** in **battle**. But **Sha'ul** broke **his** promise. **When the time came for Merav, Sha'ul's daughter to be given to David, she was given to Adriel of Meholah instead (18:17-19 CJB)**. This was not only an insult to **David**, but all **Isra'el** would know that **Sha'ul** broke **his** commitment.

**Now Sha'ul's** younger **daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Sha'ul about it, he was pleased** to have another chance to have **David killed by the Philistines. Sha'ul** wasn't beneath using **his** own **daughter** as a tool to get rid of **David**. **"I will give her to David," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him** (**he** assumed **she** would side with **him**) **and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Sha'ul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law" (18:20-21).**

There were two attempts to convince **David** to marry **Michal** because at this point **he** didn't trust **Sha'ul**, and for good reason. First, **Sha'ul ordered his attendants to speak to David privately** because **he** didn't trust **Sha'ul**, having been deceived in the case of **Merav. They** said: **Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you, now become his son-in-law. Sha'ul's servants relayed the king's message to David, but he** replied: **Do you think being the king's son-in-law is something to be treated so casually, given that I'm a poor man without social standing** and would not have enough money to pay the bride **price. Sha'ul's servants reported back to him how David had**

**responded (18:22-24 CJB).**

Then **Sha'ul** made a second attempt, saying: **Here's what you are to say to David, "The king doesn't want you** to pay the bride **price;** instead, **he wants a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, so that he can have vengeance on the king's enemies.** The assumption was that to **kill** that many **Philistines**, it would take many sword fights, and the odds of **David** surviving all of them would not be good. **For Sha'ul was hoping to have David killed by the Philistines. When the king's servants said these words to David, it pleased him to become the king's son-in-law.** The date was set and **David** had to **kill** the allotment of **Philistines** before time ran out. But **even before it was time to be married, David and his men got up, set out and killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins and gave all of them to Sha'ul in order to become the king's son-in-law (18:25-26).**

**Then Sha'ul** had run out of excuses, and **he gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife** because **he** wouldn't dare to break **his** promise a second time**.** Too many people were involved in conveying this commitment to **David**. **Sha'ul saw and understood that ADONAI was with David** because **he** survived the dangerous exploits that **he** had sent **him** on, **and that Michal his daughter loved him.** In fact, **she** loved **him** so much that **she** would side with **her** husband over **her** father and would not **be a snare** to **David** that **Sha'ul** had hoped. **This only made Sha'ul even more afraid of David and Sha'ul became David's enemy for the rest of his life. The Philistine commanders continued to attack; but whenever they did, David was more successful than any of Sha'ul's officers, so that his name became well known**, which only increased **Sha'ul's** jealousy of **David (18:27-30 CJB).**[366]

Failing to understand the spiritual reality of the situation, **Sha'ul** was placed in an impossible circumstance. **David** drives **Sha'ul** crazy, but only **David** could soothe **Sha'ul's** soul. Therefore, **Sha'ul** was left with an endless cycle of rage and comfort, where the comforter evokes more rage, which requires more comfort. Given this no-win state of affairs, **Sha'ul** gave up trying to have **David** killed by **the Philistines**. **He** would try more direct methods.

By the end of this chapter, **Sha'ul** is a remarkably isolated **man**. **He** sees clearly that **he** is losing control, and like sand slipping through **his** fingers, **he** is helpless to hold on to it. In every instance **YHVH** is keeping **His** promise to give the Kingdom over to this **one after His own heart (13:14). David** takes no initiatives. **He**

doesn't assert **himself** or express any ambition. **He** only receives what is given. **David** has received the submission of **Jonathan, Sha'ul's** heir apparent. **He** is married to **the king's daughter** who loves **him. He** is the hero to the people. A new history had begun in this **man** by the power of **God**. The defeat of **Goliath** started **David's** rise, but it was not a sufficient explanation for **his** enormous success and popularity. The only explanation is that **ADONAI was with him. Sha'ul** was not yet ready to yield . . . but **he** already knew.[367]

Needless to say, fighting against **God** is a losing battle!

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, praise **You** that **You** are greater than any huge problem, or terrible situation that may come. It is a comfort to know that when I am walking close with **You**, I am safe. No one is wiser than **You**, for **You** know everything, including **the motives of men's hearts (First Corinthians 4:5)**, and **You** know all that will happen the future **(Daniel 2, 7).** Therefore, it is comforting for me to place my problems and concerns into **Your** hands to follow **Your Word**. No matter how difficult the problem may seem to be, running to **You**, is always the wisest thing to do. Help me to always remember to **cast all** my **worries on You,** because I know that **You care for** me **(First Peter 5:7).***

***David** experienced many painful trials and times fof broken relationships; yet by putting **his** trust in **Your steadfast love**, **You** were always there to comfort and encourage **him (Psalm 63:1-7). David** knew it was your power and strength working in events that provided the victory. Even though **David** was the one who threw the slingshot that **killed Goliath, he** lovingly and wisely gave all glory to **You, Adonai-Tzva'ot, The LORD of heaven's** angelic **armies (First Samuel 17:45).** Thank **You** for always being with me to help me in my battles. **For God Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5c).** In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*