

Michal Had Five Children

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Michal Had No Child (2Sam. 6:23).

Michal Had Five Children (2Sam. 21:8).

Michal distained the fact that David expressed himself joyfully, and unabashedly, in public when the Ark of God was brought to Jerusalem,

And as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and **she despised him in her heart** (2Sam. 6:16; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; emphasis added).

Had Michal kept her feelings to herself, there may have been no further problems. However, due to the fact that she expressed her scorn openly to her husband, David responded in a manner indicating that all intercourse between them would cease from that date,

Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said (sarcastically), 'How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!' ²¹ So David said to Michal, 'It was before the Lord (that David was rejoicing), who chose me instead of your father (Saul) and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the Lord. ²² And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor' (compared to Michal who was dishonoring David by her contempt). ²³ Therefore (from that point in time) Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death (2Sam. 6:20-23; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Michal being mentioned in 2Samuel 21:8 as having five children is a mistranslation as most Bible commentators know,

'In the KJV and NKJV Michal's name appears once again in 2 Samuel 21:8 as the mother of five sons, but the probable presumption is that Michal has been, by the mistake of the transcriber, substituted for Merab, the wife of Adriel. **The NASB and NIV read "Merab"** (The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, Merrill F. Unger; p 851; emphasis added).

'Merab was the eldest daughter of King Saul (1Sam. 14:49), whom, in accordance with the promise made before the death of Goliath (17:25), Saul had betrothed to David (18:17), about 1015 B.C. David's hesitation looks as if he did not much value the honor – at any rate, before the marriage Merab's younger sister, Michal, had displayed her attachment for David, and Merab was then married to Adriel the Meholathite, to whom she bore five sons (2 Sam. 21:8), who were given up to the Gibeonites by David' (The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, Merrill F. Unger; p 834).

If David had five sons by Michal, he would not have given them up to the Gibeonites,

So they (the Gibeonites) answered the king (David), 'As for the man (i.e. Saul) who consumed us and plotted against us, that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel, ⁶ let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us and we will hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord chose.' And the king (David) said, 'I will give them' (2 Sam. 21:5-6; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In 2 Samuel 21:8, it states clearly that the five sons were born to Adriel and not David. Therefore, the mother of these five men had to be Merab, and not Michal, because Michal was never married to Adriel,

So the king (David) took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, and **the five sons of Merab** the daughter of Saul, **who she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite** (2 Sam. 21:8; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The final commentator confirms the following regarding the accuracy of the translation in 2Samuel 21:8,

'Some codices cited in the Massorah, with Sept. and Syr., read "Merab", as in 1 Sam. 18:19' (The Companion Bible; The Bullinger Publication Trust; p 438).

In conclusion, King David would not allow his own sons to be executed by the Gibeonites, no matter how justifiable their cause may have been. Besides, the Gibeonites were not interested in any of David's descendants. Also, the father of the five men mentioned in 2Samuel 21:8 was Adriel. Therefore, they were not Michal's sons because Michal was not married to Adriel. So instead of a contradiction in scripture, 2Samuel 21:8 is clearly an error on the part of a transcriber.

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