

1 Samuel 18:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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Analysis

And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.

The narrator reveals Saul's inner thoughts: Michal as 'snare' (moqesh) and the Philistines as executioners. The phrase 'in the one of the twain' offers David a second opportunity at royal marriage after Merab's denial. Yet every word conceals murderous intent. Saul's scheme exposes how corrupt hearts can use family bonds and religious ceremony as weapons. The father who should protect his daughter plans to use her as bait; the king who should defend his servant designs his death. Yet God turns snares into salvation repeatedly in David's story.

Historical Context

Using daughters as political pawns was common ancient practice. 'Snare' language appears in Proverbs describing seductive women who destroy men. Saul's plan inverted normal protective instincts, weaponizing family relationships for murderous purposes.

Jeremiah 9:8 (Parallel theme): Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

Exodus 10:7 (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?

1 Samuel 18:26 (Word): And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.

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