

# 1 Samuel 18:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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

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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.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can religious or family structures be corrupted into instruments of harm?
2. What does Saul's scheming reveal about the depths to which jealousy can drive a person?

## Interlinear Text

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לְמוֹקֵן שׁ      לֹא וְתַהֲרֵי לֹא אָתַּה שָׁאֹל וְאָמַר  
him her that she may be a snare      H4170  
said And Saul I will give      H559 H7586 H5414 H0 H1961 H0  
H559 H7586 H5414 H0 H1961 H0

אַל שָׁאֹל וְאָמַר      פָּלֶשֶׁת יִם יְדֵךְ וְבָנָה  
H413 And Saul said      H559 H7586 H0  
to him and that the hand of the Philistines      H1961 H0 H3027 H6430  
H1961 H0 to him and that the hand of the Philistines      H1961 H0 H3027 H6430

בְּיַמִּים תִּתְהִנֵּן בְּשַׁתְּ יִם תְּהִנֵּן  
Thou shalt this day      H3117 H0  
to David in the one of the twain be my son in law      H1732 H8147 H2859

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 18:17** (References David): And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

**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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