

1 Samuel 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.

Analysis

And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.

Michal's use of a household idol (teraphim) raises uncomfortable questions - why did David's wife possess such an image? The deception bought time for David's escape. The pillow of goats' hair created visual illusion. While Scripture neither condones the idol's presence nor the deception, it records God's use of flawed instruments to accomplish preservation.

Historical Context

Teraphim were household religious objects, possibly ancestral images. Their presence in an Israelite home reflected syncretic religious practices. Rachel had taken her father's teraphim (Genesis 31:19). Such objects were common despite prophetic condemnation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of imperfect means challenge our expectations of how He works?
2. What does the presence of teraphim in David's household suggest about spiritual growth's gradual nature?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| וַתֵּקַח ח | מִיכָל ל | אֶת | הַתְּרָפִים ים | שָׁ מָה | אֶל | הַמֶּטֶה ה | וְאֵת |
| took | And Michal | H853 | an image | and laid | H413 | it in the bed | H853 |
| H3947 | H4324 | | H8655 | H7760 | | H4296 | |
| בְּבִגְדִי: | וַתִּכְסֶּה | מְרֹאֲשֶׁתִּי יו | שָׁ מָה | הָעֵזִי ים | כֶּבֶד יר | | |
| it with a cloth | and covered | hair for his bolster | and laid | of goats | a pillow | | |
| H899 | H3680 | H4763 | H7760 | H5795 | H3523 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 31:19 (Parallel theme): And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.

Judges 18:17 (Parallel theme): And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men that were appointed with weapons of war.

Judges 18:14 (Parallel theme): Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do.