

1 Samuel 25:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

Analysis

But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

The chapter concludes with troubling news about David's first wife. Saul's giving Michal to another man violated both marriage covenant and his own earlier agreement. The Hebrew 'natan' (gave) treats Michal as property transferred without consent. Phalti (or Phaltiel, 2 Samuel 3:15) of Gallim received her apparently as reward for loyalty to Saul. This action severed David's connection to the royal house and declared him no longer son-in-law. The political significance was clear: Saul formally repudiated any relationship with David. Yet later, David would demand Michal's return (2 Samuel 3:13-16), creating its own complications. This verse introduces suffering that would shadow David's personal life.

Historical Context

Marriage to the king's daughter created political bonds Saul here severed. Gallim was in Benjamin, Saul's tribal territory. Phalti's later grief at losing Michal (2 Samuel 3:16) suggests genuine attachment developed during her years in his household.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Saul's treatment of Michal reveal about his view of people as political tools?
2. How do the consequences of this action extend into David's later reign?

Interlinear Text

לפְלִטִּי	דָּנִי	אִשָּׂת	בַּת	וְ	מִיכָּל	אַת	נָתָת	וְ	יְשָׁאָה	וְ
But Saul	had given	H853	Michal	his daughter		wife		David's	to Phalti	
H7586	H5414		H4324	H1323		H802		H1732	H6406	
בָּנֵי	אֶשְׁר	לִישָׁ	מִגְלִים:	אֲשֶׁר	לִישָׁ	בָּנֵי				
the son	of Laish	H834		which was of Gallim						
H1121	H3919			H1554						

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:27 (References David): Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

2 Samuel 3:14 (References David): And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.