

**Bible Study Questions**  
*Michal: A Novel*  
by Jill Eileen Smith

1. What brought about Saul's demons – the demons that made them send for the singer? (See 1 Samuel 15 & 1 Samuel 16:14-23)
2. What were the two rash oaths Saul made that nearly got Jonathan killed? (1 Samuel 14:24-45 particularly vs. 24 & 44.)
3. Why did God send famine during David's reign? (2 Samuel 21:1-14)
4. What treaty had Saul ignored when he killed the Gibeonites and tried to exterminate them? (Joshua 9:1-27) What does this tell us about how God feels about oaths and treaties?
5. All men die but once in a while God gives us a reason for a specific person's death. He does that regarding Saul. What was the reason? (1 Chronicles 10:13-14)
6. The Amalekite that came to David told David that he had killed Saul – finishing him off after he saw that Saul's attempted suicide had failed. According to 1 Chronicles 10:1-6, is this true? How did Saul die? Why might the man have lied?
7. Why did Saul lose the right to pass the kingship on to his son, Jonathan? (1 Samuel 15 – the whole chapter but verse 28 in particular.)
8. What emotions led to Saul's continual attempts to murder David? (See 1 Samuel 18:8, 9, 12, 15, & 29) How did Saul act on these emotions?
9. Michal watched her father go from being a popular king to a murderous madman, yet whose side did she take – Saul's or David's? (1 Samuel 18:27-28)
10. 1 Samuel 19:9-17 gives us the story of how Michal helped David escape from her father. What reasons might she have had for lying to her father about her part in it all? Does the Bible tell us for sure?
11. After David has married two other women, Ahinoam and Abigail, we are told in 1 Samuel 25:44 that Saul had given Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel. The Bible has very little to say about Paltiel, but given that one statement – "Michal, David's wife" – both Saul and Paltiel knew that Michal belonged to David. What does that tell us about Paltiel's character?
12. 2 Samuel 3:12-16 gives us the scene where David demands Michal's return. Paltiel follows her weeping all the way from Mahanaim to Bahurim a distance of about 45

- miles, until Abner tells him to go home. What does this tell us about how Paltiel felt toward Michal?
13. Despite Paltiel's feelings, he was still living with another man's wife. According to the Mosaic Law, what should have been Paltiel's penalty? (Leviticus 20:10) (Hint: the verse would indicate both parties in adultery deserve punishment, but Scripture indicates it was Saul who gave Michal to Paltiel, making Paltiel and Saul the guilty parties.)
  14. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 says that a divorced woman who remarries may not at some later date go back and marry her first husband again. Why was David allowed to get Michal back without some type of judgment? (Hint: because David had never divorced Michal. Paltiel was the one in the wrong.)
  15. When David brings the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, he leaps and dances before the Lord, wearing only a linen ephod—the dress of priests. According to 2 Samuel 6:16 Michal is watching David from a window (probably of the palace.) What else does it say about her?
  16. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23. What is the last thing the Bible records regarding Michal? Based on the Scripture, do you see Michal's life as hopeful or tragic?

Author's Note: My fictional account of Michal's story imagines what might have happened after her tragic encounter with David when she shows him her disdain for who he is. But the story is just that, a story. All we really know is what is recorded in Scripture. Someday, when all things are known, the truth will be fully revealed. Until then, I hope my version of Michal's story will inspire you to read and study the biblical account. It's a fascinating read!



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