

## Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 19:11-17

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### 1 Samuel 19:11-17

#### Verse 11

***<sup>11</sup> Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."***

- King Saul was ruled by his jealousy of David. Although David had been entirely loyal to Saul, Saul was afraid that David would rise up and take the kingdom from him. He had tried three times to kill David. But each time David escaped. Saul gave the order to all his men to kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, intervened and pleaded for David's life with his father. Saul vowed that he would not kill David. But soon he was again conquered by his jealousy and fear. Saul sent men to David's house to kill him.
- Michal, David's wife and King Saul's daughter, warned David of her father's intention to kill him and told David that if he did not run away immediately, he would be dead by the next day.

#### Verse 12

***<sup>12</sup> So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.***

- David listened to his wife's advice. He fled from Saul. But was this good advice?

#### Verses 13-14

***<sup>13</sup> Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.***

***<sup>14</sup> When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, "He is ill."***

- Michal took an idol, a statue of a false god, (one might ask why there are idols in David's house) and put it in David's bed. She put some goats' hair on the idol's head to make it look as if David was sleeping in the bed. She told the King's soldiers that David was ill. (None of this was true.)
- Saul's men went back to him and reported that David was ill in bed.

### **Verses 15-16**

***<sup>15</sup> Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, “Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him.” <sup>16</sup> But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats’ hair.***

- Saul told his men to go back and bring David to him in his bed. He reminded them that he intended to kill David even if he was sick in bed.
- When the men returned to David’s house they found the idol in David’s bed. So, they brought Michal to her father to explain.

### **Verse 17**

***<sup>17</sup> Saul said to Michal, “Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?”***

***Michal told him, “He said to me, ‘Let me get away. Why should I kill you?’”***

- Saul asked his daughter why she had deceived him and helped David escape.
- Again she lied, telling her father that David had threatened to kill her if she did not assist him in his escape.

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