

Why does Saul ask that David pay a bride price of 100 foreskins for Michal? (1 Samuel 18:25) Foreskins seem like a bizarre thing to ask for.

Saul was requesting the death of his enemies. The foreskins from the Philistines would serve as proof as to his accomplishment.

Regarding vv. 20–30¹, J. G. Baldwin wrote:

Saul had deliberately avoided making David his son-in-law, but when he learnt that his daughter Michal was in love with him, Saul devised a means of taking advantage of the fact. His courtiers approached David, pointing out the additional support this marriage would give to his already considerable status. This time David's reply specifically stated I am a poor man, suggesting that he would never be able to raise the bride price for such a wife. It was the reply Saul wanted, for the price he named would involve a high degree of risk to David's life: however, to David and his men it was all in a day's work to kill not merely one hundred, but two hundred Philistines. Thus he qualified to marry into the royal family, and this time was given his bride, Michal.²

Saul tried to murder David (1 Sa 19:1–24).³ When David had the chance to kill Saul, he did not (1 Sa 26:1–25). He showed respect for the first king of Israel (1 Sa 9:1, 2).

¹ And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 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. And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 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. 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. And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by. The Holy Bible: King James Version. (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., 1 Sa 18:20–30). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Baldwin, J. G. (1988). 1 and 2 Samuel: An Introduction and Commentary (Vol. 8, p. 140). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ David had become popular and Saul tried to kill David several times. Saul gave Michal to David rewarding him for the death of two hundred Philistines. Jonathan warned David of an attempt on his life by his father, Saul. Michal also saved David's life (1 Sa 18–19).