The ark of the covenant arrived in Jerusalem with great celebration and worship, led by King David. Despite the setback caused by David's initial mistake in moving the ark, the momentous occasion followed Israel's united, enthusiastic support of David's rule.

Michal, Saul's daughter, tried to rain on the parade by accusing David of dishonoring himself. Her charge was that he was acting like one of the people rather than setting himself apart as the king. Instead of wearing royal attire, he wore a linen ephod like the Levites (1 Chron. 15:27). Michal felt that David's dress and actions were beneath his royal position. David defended himself and, probably sarcastically, said that he'd humiliate himself even more, at least in her eyes.

Much had changed since David married Michal. Early on, she'd betrayed her own father to help David escape him. But while David was on the run, Saul gave Michal to another man. David eventually got her back, to the great dismay of the man to whom she'd been given.

Following the conflict about David's celebration, 2 Samuel 6:23 records that Michal had no children all her life. We're not told whether this was caused by God or David, but it seems to be the consequence of her reproof. However, most manuscripts of 2 Samuel 21:8 mention "the five sons of Michal." The KJV and NKJV here read "Michal," and the ASV has "Michal" with a footnote suggesting it should be Merab (Michal's sister). Almost all other translations ascribe the children to "Merab" (ESV, NIV, NASB, CSB), with most noting the manuscript problems in the footnotes. Apparently, the translators' consensus is that "Michal" was a copyist error. In favor of this theory are three facts. [1] The children were born to Adriel, Merab's husband (1 Sam. 18:19). [2] It makes more sense in this context that David would've delivered Merab's children over to death rather than his own. [3] There are a few manuscripts which read Merab, indicating some issue in the copying process. Another possibility entertained by some is that Michal raised her sister's children, but a copyist error seems to be the most likely explanation.