

Keeping a Covenant



Sunday March 19th, 2023

The Covenant with Jonathan

- **1 Samuel 20:8-16 (NKJV)**

⁸ Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you....¹³ may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father *to do* you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.

¹⁴ And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die;

¹⁵ but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

¹⁶ So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, "Let the LORD require *it* at the hand of David's enemies."

- Jonathan asked David to **show** the loyal love of **the LORD** to him and to his **house** when he rose to power. It is clear from verses [14-17](#) that Jonathan believed that David would yet be king; but he reaffirmed his love to David even though he realized the throne rights, vested in him, would be David's. What unselfish devotion!

Believer's Bible Commentary

Covenant with Saul

- **1 Samuel 24:18-22 (NKJV)**

¹⁸ And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.

¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.

²⁰ And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

²¹ Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

²² So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

- Temporarily moved to tears by David's words, Saul acknowledged the righteousness of David's behavior and his own wickedness. Surprisingly, he admitted that David would one day **be king in Israel**, and he made David take a solemn oath that he would deal kindly with his family. Then Saul left peaceably. But the respite David enjoyed was short. Saul soon forgot his kindness.

Believer's Bible Commentary.

Our lesson

- Second Samuel Chapter Nine is a beautiful story about grace, integrity, keeping your word, loving others, and getting involved in their lives. It is a story about David's love and care for Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth. In David's care for Mephibosheth, we find God's care and concern for lost sinners and the steps the Lord takes to save the sinner and bring him to Himself. It is a story of God's grace in a barren place.

Treasures From the Scriptures

- David remembered his covenant with Jonathan ([1 Sam. 20:14-17](#)) to show him kindness and wanted some opportunity to fulfill it.

Believer's Bible Commentary:

- **2 Samuel 9:1-13 (NKJV)**

¹ Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² And *there was* a servant of the house of Saul whose name *was* Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!"

³ Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan *who is* lame in *his* feet."

⁴ So the king said to him, "Where *is* he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he *is* in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

- ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.
⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"
⁷ So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."
⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, "What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

- ⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.
¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.
¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," *said the king*, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." ¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name *was* Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants of Mephibosheth.
¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

Mephibosheth

- **2 Samuel 4:4 (NKJV)**

⁴ Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *who was* lame in *his* feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name *was* Mephibosheth.

- His father (Jonathan) and grandfather (Saul) died when he was five years old. He had a nurse who cared for him. Upon hearing the war news of a Philistine victory, she flees with the boy in the event that the Philistines should come to Saul's home to kill the rest of the family. In so doing, Mephibosheth falls and is severely injured, becoming lame for life. Mephibosheth is a possible heir to the throne of Saul but his handicap disqualified him from ruling based on Middle East customs.

Believer's Bible Commentary

- David remembered his covenant with Jonathan ([1 Sam. 20:14-17](#)) to show him kindness and wanted some opportunity to fulfill it. Ziba, a servant of the late King Saul, reported that a crippled son of Jonathan was living in the house of Machir in Lo Debar, on the east side of the Jordan River. David had him brought to Jerusalem, ordered that the family property be returned to him, and arranged for him to eat at the royal table. Ziba and his sons were appointed to serve Mephibosheth.
- Mephibosheth is a picture of an unconverted soul living in a barren land (Lo Debar may mean no pasture) and sold under sin (Machir means *sold*—[v. 4](#)). He was an outcast from the fallen house of Saul. He was unable to come to the king to beg for mercy, being lame in both his feet.

- But the gracious sovereign sought him out in order to bless him. Once found, Mephibosheth was given great riches and a place of fellowship at the king's table. The parallels to salvation are obvious. Like Mephibosheth, we were *helpless* (unable to come to God); our condition was *hopeless* (being part of a fallen race). But by grace we became objects of divine favor. We have been elevated to a place in the family of God and made joint-heirs with Christ.
Believer's Bible Commentary

- We will look at the results of “fall” of Mephibosheth and the grace of the King David.

Things we see

- THE ATTITUDE OF DAVID
- THE ARRAIGNMENT OF MEPHIBOSHETH
- THE ASSURANCE OF DAVID
- THE ABASEMENT OF MEPHIBOSHETH
- THE ADMONITION OF DAVID
- THE ABUNDANCE OF MEPHIBOSHETH

- **THE ATTITUDE OF DAVID—[9:1-4](#)**
- David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"
- Enemies have been subdued and conquered. David had regained what had been lost to the enemies, including Saul's property. He remembers a covenant made years earlier with his best friend Jonathan and to King Saul who are both dead, the promise to show kindness to the descendants of Saul.
- David desires to show God's kindness to anyone left of Saul's house. An old servant of Saul is located, Ziba, and he informs the king that Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth is alive and is crippled or lame on his feet. Mephibosheth's name means "shameful thing or dispeller of shame."

- **THE ARRAIGNMENT OF MEPHIBOSHETH—[9:5,6](#)**
- Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.
- David seeks out Mephibosheth, who was hiding. He is brought before the king and falls upon his face in reverence and respect for David. He humbly acknowledges himself as David's servant.
- We were hiding and sought out by Jesus Christ, the King of kings.
- [Luke 19:10](#)—*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
- David sent for Mephibosheth and drew him to himself. God does the same to the one's without Jesus Christ.
- [John 6:44](#)—*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

- **THE ASSURANCE OF DAVID—[9:7](#)**

- ⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

⁷ So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

- David could see the distress and fear on the face of Mephibosheth. He is expecting the worst, to die, but instead, he receives the best. David treats him royally. He doesn't have to do this. Mephibosheth doesn't deserve this royal treatment, but David does it anyway willingly by grace and Mephibosheth welcomes these words.

- **THE ABASEMENT OF MEPHIBOSHETH—[9:8](#)**
- ⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, "What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"
- Mephibosheth believed David's words. He accepts them by faith but feels so unworthy. He refers to himself as a dead dog. Dogs were considered as worthless animals. A dead, stinking, rotting dog was considered with contempt. Mephibosheth's humble spirit brought him honor.
- Though unworthy of salvation, we too must accept Christ by faith and trust His word and promises. As Mephibosheth saw himself as unworthy, we must recognize our sinfulness.
[Romans 3:10](#)—*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: [23](#) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

- **THE ADMONITION OF DAVID—[9:9,10](#)**

- And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always."

- David gives Ziba instructions to care for Mephibosheth's estate. Mephibosheth would be provided for. As Mephibosheth was given servants to help him, the saved sinner is given the Holy Spirit as a helper. God provided abundantly for us as David provided for Mephibosheth.

- **THE ABUNDANCE OF MEPHIBOSHETH—[9:11-13](#)**
- Mephibosheth's loneliness was replaced with companionship. He now would be as one of the king's sons and would fellowship with the king, eating at his table continually. In Mephibosheth, David looked for *anybody*, found a crippled *nobody*, and made him a *somebody*. All of this is what God has done for you and me in Christ. He is our provider.
- [Matthew 6:33](#)—*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
- As David brought Mephibosheth from a place of barrenness to a place of honor, God has taken us from where we were to where He is, to a place of fellowship and a new walk with Him. He has restored to us what we once had in Adam.
- [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)—*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

God's Abundance

- 1. He provides abundant joy. [Psalm 16:11](#)—In your presence is fullness of joy;
- 2. He provides abundant grace. [2 Corinthians 9:8](#)—*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*
- 3. He provides abundant life. [John 10:10](#)—*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- 4. He provides abundant power. [Ephesians 3:20](#)—*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*
- 5. He provides abundant supplies. [Philippians 4:19](#)—*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

- **Mephibosheth became a cripple in both feet when he was five years old.** The news of Jonathan and Saul's death by the Philistines had reached the nurse of Mephibosheth. She fled with the child believing the Philistines would come to her home next to kill Mephibosheth. In their flight, she drops him and he is severely injured for life. His injury would always be a reminder of that dark day in his life. For the first five years no need was unmet in this little boy's life. Yet, his entire little world would change with the news and tragedy of a single day.
- His stand became a fall.
- His ease became a struggle.
- His security became insecurity.
- His comfort became pain.
- His mountain tops turned into deserts and valleys.

- Saul's home was in Gibeah which means "the hill."
- Mephibosheth ended up in Lodebar which means "no pasture" or "a place of barrenness" and typifies what was happening in his life. Life without Jesus Christ is barren too. You have no true peace, joy, security, or purpose for living.
- Mephibosheth lived in the house of Machir which means "sold." As sinners without Christ, we are sold under sin and are in spiritual bondage to our carnal nature.

[Romans 7:14](#)—*For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

- Our feet give us problems just like Mephibosheth's. They lead us away from the Lord.

[Isaiah 53:6](#)—*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

- As he was crippled.... without Christ we were morally and spiritually crippled. [Ephesians 2:1, 2](#)—*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*
- He was in exile... our fellowship with God was broken too. [Ephesians 2:12](#)—*That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*
- Mephibosheth was under the sentence of death, a "dead dog." Without Christ we too were under the sentence of death because of our sin.
- *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned* ([Romans 5:12](#)).

- In David's care of Mephibosheth, we begin to see God's care for us. We are in the same place as Mephibosheth, crippled by a fall. Without Christ we are crippled by sin.
[Romans 5:12](#)—*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
- Mephibosheth was not worthy... we are not worthy of salvation either. As he by faith accepts David's promise of the covenant, we too by faith receive Christ as Savior and take Him at His Word. We who are *distanced, dethroned, disgraced, and doomed* have salvation in the Lord Jesus.

- Because of Jesus Christ we have as Mephibosheth....
 - **The Forgiveness** of the King. David restores Mephibosheth's life. Christ did the same for us ([Ephesians 1:7](#)). In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins ...
 - **The Fellowship** with the King. He ate at the king's table which was a place of honor. We have fellowship with God too ([1 John 1:3](#)). .. Our fellowship is with the father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
 - **The Fortune** of the King. Mephibosheth received Saul's inheritance. Believers have an inheritance too ([1 Peter 1:3, 4](#)). An inheritance incorruptible reserved in heaven for you...
 - **The Family** of the King. He would be as the king's son. We are sons of God ([John 1:12](#); [Romans 8:15](#)).

- **As Mephibosheth became as one of the king's sons, the believer becomes a son of God.**
- [John 1:12](#)—*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
- **As Mephibosheth lived in a prepared place in Jerusalem, the believer has a prepared place in Heaven.**
- [John 14:2, 3](#)—*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- **We too will be seated at the KINGS table.** Rev 19:6-10
.... Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb
- *Commentaries : Treasures From the Scriptures and Believer's Bible Commentary*