

Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9

2 Samuel 4:4

by Don Falkos

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One day David summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. The king asked, "Is anyone still alive from Saul's family?"

Ziba replied, "Yes, one of Jonathan's sons is still alive. His name is Mephibosheth. He is crippled in both feet. He was five years old when the news came that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle. The child's nurse picked him up and fled. But as she hurried to get away, she dropped him, and he became crippled."

David asked, "Where is he now?"

Ziba told him. David sent for Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan and the grandson of King Saul. When Mephibosheth arrived and was brought before David, he bowed low to the ground in deep respect, saying, "I am your servant."

David said, "Mephibosheth, don't be afraid. Your father was my dearest friend. I intend to show kindness to you because of my great love for him. I will give back to you all the land that once belonged to your grandfather Saul and you will eat here with me at my table!" Mephibosheth once again bowed before David and expressed his unworthiness.

The king told Ziba, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him."

Ziba replied, "Yes, my lord the king. I will do as you have commanded." Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. From that time on, all the members of Ziba's household became Mephibosheth's servants. Mephibosheth ate regularly at David's table, like one of the king's own sons.