

THE RISE AND FALL OF A NATION



Lessons from Israel's First Kings

David and Mephibosheth

The Lovingkindness of the King



A faithful king keeps his promises

The covenant with David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 20: 14 “But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.” 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” 17 And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.”



The king who seeks others

2 Samuel 9: 1 “David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” 2 Now there was a servant of Saul’s household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” “At your service,” he replied. 3 The king asked, “Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?” Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; *he is lame in both feet.*” *(See 2 Samuel 4:4)* 4 “Where is he?” the king asked. Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”



2 Samuel 4:4 “(Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.)”



Who is Mephibosheth?

- He is Saul's grandson and Jonathan's son
- He was dropped as a child and now is crippled
- He had lost everything: family, fortune, land, and his health
- His identity was his disability and his circumstances

5 “So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. 6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, “Mephibosheth!” “At your service,” he replied. 7 “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.” 8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”



9 “Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.”



11. Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my Lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table like one of the king’s sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba’s household were servants of Mephibosheth.

13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table; he was lame in both feet.”



The King has the authority to judge or show love

- He keeps his covenant to Jonathan
- He shows Mephibosheth lovingkindness (grace)
- He sees the value in this broken man
- He changes his life
- He gives him a hope for a better future
- He gives him a new identity
- He gives him a place at the king's table

How does this relate to us?

David = a picture of King Jesus

Mephibosheth = us

New Covenant = Christ's work on our behalf

We have a place at the table