

2 Samuel 9, Chapter Introduction

9:1-4, David's inquiry. David's love for Saul's son, Jonathan, reappears in Chapter 9. With the loss of Jonathan still on his mind, David inquired if there was anyone remaining of Saul's house to whom he could show special kindness. Ziba, a previous servant of Saul's, was sought out by David and asked: "*Is there not still someone of the of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?*" Ziba replied: "*There is still a son of Jonathan: he is crippled in his feet*" (v.3) ... and he is in "*Lo-debar*" (its precise location is unknown, but it is likely east of the Jordan and north Jerusalem (cf. 17:27). Mephibosheth had probably been taken there soon after Saul's death. ESV-SB, p. 557).

9:5-8, Mephibosheth receives grace. Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, was sent for and brought before the king (v.5). Uncertain of his fate and the outcome of the king's intentions, Mephibosheth was clearly filled with anxiety of heart as he "*fell on his face*" before the king (v.6). But rather than hearing words of *condemnation* in the presence of the king, David spoke words of comfort and grace, certainly words that were unbelievably hard for Mephibosheth to imagine: "*Do not fear, [said David,] for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father, Jonathan*" (v.7). Indeed, David further told Mephibosheth, "*I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always*" (v.7). David displayed, once again, a heart after God's own heart as he freely bestowed grace without merit, grace totally based on the merits of another: Jonathan his father. Such a narrative clearly anticipates the grace God would extend one day to those crippled by sin and unworthy of the least of His favors because of the merits of His dearly beloved Son: Jesus Christ! Disabled Mephibosheth, bowed in humility before the king, found no condemnation, but instead was lavished with grace upon grace in the very presence of the king. All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will one day experience the same in the awesome glory of God, based NOT on any merit of their own, but solely on the merit of the Divine Son: Jesus our Lord! Amen, and amen.

9:9-13, Ziba, one of a different heart. The narrative shifts to a focus on Ziba, the servant of Saul, and now the professed 'faithful servant' of king David (v. 11). But as God had reminded Samuel, "*Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart*" (1 Sam. 16:7); so now, what was on Ziba's outside was different than what was in his heart. This will become event later in the life of the king. God always seeks a sincere heart (Psalm 145:18; 139:23,24; both are Psalms of David). On the surface, Ziba's words were commendable, but eventually the truth became known. It always does! (cf. 16:1-4; 19:24-30)

The account ends on a glorious high note! (v.13). At first the closing words of chapter 9 seem out of place: "*Now he was lame in both his feet.*" But it is NOT out of place, rather perfectly placed. For the narrative purposely ends leaving the reader with a greater appreciation for the *grace* of the king. Mephibosheth truly was *helpless* and *hopeless*. But glorious was the king's grace! Yes, and even more so, glorious is our King's *GRACE!*