

4.09 DAVID CARES FOR JONATHAN'S SON

2 SAMUEL 4:4, 2 SAMUEL 9

The last time David and Jonathan, Saul's son, were together they promised to always keep a friendship with each other and their children. Jonathan and David were the best of friends. Jonathan had helped David escape from King Saul when the king wanted to kill him. Jonathan always wanted David to be king and not himself.

Many years went by. There were lots of battles. There were lots of times when David had to run to escape King Saul. But David never harmed the king. David knew that the Lord God had made Saul a king for that time. David honored God's choice. Even when there was a time David could hurt King Saul, he still wouldn't do it.

It happened, after many years of fighting, that King Saul and his son, Jonathan, were both killed. Jonathan had a young son named Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was cared for by a nurse. When the news came that both Saul and Jonathan had been killed, the nurse became frightened. She quickly grabbed Mephibosheth in her arms and began to run. As she ran, she tripped and fell and dropped Mephibosheth. It greatly harmed his body. His feet became damaged for life. He was only five years old at the time.

More years went by. The kingdom was now divided into two parts. One part was called Israel and one part was called Judah. David was now the king of Judah. One day, he began to remember his friend Jonathan. There was still a man servant named Ziba, who had worked in King Saul's household, who was now working for King David. David asked, "Is there anyone left from Saul's family? I would like to show them kindness in honor of my friend Jonathan.":

Ziba, the servant, said, "Yes. Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. He is handicapped in both of his feet. The servant knew where Mephibosheth was living. David said, "Let's go get him and bring him here."

When Mephibosheth met King David, he bowed down to him. David said, "Don't be frightened. I want to do something special for you because your father was such a good friend of mine. To start with, I want to give you all the property that your grandfather, Saul, left. Also, I want you to eat at my table now." Mephibosheth couldn't believe what was happening! He couldn't even look at King David. He said, "Why are you doing this for me? I am not anyone important."

David told the servant Ziba, "Everything that belonged to Saul and his family, now belongs to Mephibosheth, his grandson. You and your sons will be servants to him now, work the land, and bring in all the crops for Mephibosheth. And Mephibosheth will now eat all his meals at my table."

"All that you ask, my King, I will do," said the servant.

So, Mephibosheth ate at King David's table in Jerusalem, just like one of the royal family. He also had a small son named Mica with him. All who were a part of Ziba's household were now servants of Mephibosheth.

David kept his promise to Jonathan to keep friendship between them and their children.

4.09 DAVID CARES FOR JONATHAN'S SON - TEACHER'S GUIDE

2 SAMUEL 4:4, 2 SAMUEL 9

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) David and Saul's son, Jonathan, had been best friends at one time. The last time they saw each other, they were sad to say goodbye, but they knew God blessed the friendship between them and their children.
- 2) Saul and Jonathan had died fighting a battle. David had become King. There was a servant working for him, named Ziba, who had also been King Saul's servant.
- 3) David was remembering his friend Jonathan one day. He asked Ziba if there was anyone in Saul's family he could help, in honor of his friend Jonathan. Ziba told him that Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth, who was handicapped in his feet. David said, "Let's bring him here."
- 4) "You will eat at my table," David told Mephibosheth. "And you will have all the property that belonged to your grandfather, King Saul." He bowed down to King David to show him honor. He told David he was nobody. "Why are you doing this for me?"
- 5) Ziba and his sons became the servants to Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth and his son, Mica, ate at King David's just like they were part of the royal family.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) The last time David and Jonathan saw each other, what was it that God made known to them?
- 2) Who was Ziba?
- 3) What did David want to do as he remembered Jonathan?
- 4) Who was Mephibosheth?
- 5) What did King David do for Mephibosheth?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Jonathan and David knew that God had blessed the friendship between them and their children.
- 2) Ziba was a servant of King David, but he had also been a servant to King Saul.
- 3) David wanted to do something for Saul's family, in honor of David's friend Jonathan.
- 4) Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son.
- 5) David told Mephibosheth he and his son could eat at his table. He also gave Mephibosheth all of the property of his grandfather, King Saul.