

Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 9:1-13

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Verse 1

¹ David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

- Jonathan was King Saul’s eldest son. He would have been Israel’s second king had his father not angered God and lost the kingdom.
- Jonathan and David had been best friends before Jonathan died at his father’s side in battle.
- David wanted to honor his friend by finding a surviving member of Saul’s family whom he could befriend for Jonathan’s sake.
- These events are described at the end of 1 Samuel.

Verses 2-5

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.”

⁴ “Where is he?” the king asked.

Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”

⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

- Ziba, who had been a servant in Saul’s household, was summoned to answer David’s question. Ziba told David that Jonathan’s son was still alive and lived in the household of Makir in Lo Debar.
- Ziba was quick to inform David that this son of Jonathan was no threat to David because he was lame in both feet. As Jonathan’s only surviving son, this son of Jonathan was the rightful heir to Saul’s throne. But because this

son of Jonathan was crippled, he would have been eliminated from the succession.

- While David's intention was to show covenant loyalty to his friend Jonathan, others suspected his motives and believed that his intention was to eliminate any rival claim to Israel's throne.
- David ordered that that this son of Jonathan be brought to him.

Verses 6-7

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."

- Jonathan's son's name was Mephibosheth.
- When Mephibosheth was brought before David, David assured him that he had nothing to fear. That these were David's first words to Mephibosheth implied that Mephibosheth and others in David's court expected the worse.
- David explained that his purpose was to show kindness to Mephibosheth because he was Jonathan's son. He gave Mephibosheth all the lands that had belonged to King Saul. Mephibosheth was suddenly a very wealthy man! David promised Mephibosheth that he would eat every day at the king's table. That meant that David would provide for Mephibosheth's daily needs and that he would always be welcomed at the palace.

Verses 8-12

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." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

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, and he was crippled in both feet.

- Mephibosheth was overwhelmed by David’s honor.
- David called Ziba, who had been King Saul’s steward, the manager of King Saul’s personal estate, and set him over Mephibosheth’s household.
- Both Mephibosheth and Ziba benefited greatly from David’s desire to honor Jonathan.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 2 Samuel 9:1-13. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)