

# The Lost Prince Redeemed

Pastor George M. Stahnke 05/30/99

Introduction: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

## 1. A covenant promise given

Jonathan asked David to keep a promise to treat his children kindly in the future. Roughly eighteen years later, after David brought peace to a united kingdom, he took great pains to fulfill this promise: he invited Jonathan's son Mephibosheth into his palace to live.

**1 Samuel 20:14-17** But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, <sup>15</sup>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." So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD call David's enemies to account." <sup>17</sup>And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath (to swear again) out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself. (*Emphasis added*)

**Swear:** shaba`, shaw-bah', Hebrew Stg 7650; a primitive root; properly to be complete, but used only as a denominative from Hebrew 7651 (sheba`); to seven oneself, i.e. swear (as if by repeating a declaration seven times) :- adjure, charge, take an oath.

## 1. Crippled from the fall, separated from the blessing of the King

**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 crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

**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?"

**Luke 15:32** But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. (Parable of the lost sheep, lost coin, lost son, Luke 15:3-10)

**Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

## 1. The humble response to the blessing of the King, gratitude for His favor

**2 Samuel 9:8** Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

**Proverbs 29:23** A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

**2 Samuel 7:18** Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?"

**Matthew 8:8** The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

## of Colorado Springs

**1 Tim. 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

"Paul calls himself "the worst" of sinners. We think of Paul as a great hero of the faith, but Paul never saw himself that way, because he remembered his life before he met Christ. The more Paul understood God's grace, the more he was aware of his own sinfulness. Humility and gratitude should mark the life of every Christian. Never forget that you too are a sinner saved by grace."

—*Life App Bible*

"Mephibosheth was no great ornament to a royal table, yet he had a continual place at David's board, because the king could see in his face the features of the beloved Jonathan. Like Mephibosheth, we may cry unto the King of Glory, "What is thy servant, that thou shouldst look upon such a dead dog as I am?" but still the Lord indulges us with most familiar intercourse with himself, because he sees in our countenances the remembrance of his dearly-beloved Jesus. The Lord's people are dear for another's sake. Such is the love which the Father bears to his only begotten, that for his sake he raises his lowly brethren from poverty and banishment, to courtly companionship, noble rank, and royal provision. Their deformity shall not rob them of their privileges. Lameness is no bar to sonship; the cripple is as much the heir as if he could run like Asahel. Our right does not limp, though our might may. A king's table is a noble hiding-place for lame legs, and at the gospel feast we learn to glory in infirmities, because the power of Christ resteth upon us. Yet grievous disability may mar the persons of the best-loved saints. Here is one feasted by David, and yet so lame in both his feet that he could not go up with the king when he fled from the city, and was therefore maligned and injured by his servant Ziba. Saints whose faith is weak, and whose knowledge is slender, are great losers; they are exposed to many enemies, and cannot follow the king whithersoever he goeth. This disease frequently arises from falls. Bad nursing in their spiritual infancy often causes converts to fall into a despondency from which they never recover, and sin in other cases brings broken bones. Lord, help the lame to leap like an hart, and satisfy all thy people with the bread of thy table!"

—*The 365 Day Devotional Bible*