

## SUCH A DEAD DOG AS I

### 2 SAMUEL 8:1 – 9:13

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God continues examining the life of David in this report. We've followed David's account since he was sought out by Samuel as a young man tending his family's sheep. At the time in which we are studying, David has been crowned king of Israel. In our previous report, David finally managed to move the Ark to Jerusalem, where he wanted to build God a house. The Lord told David that David could not build Him a house; but that He would build David a house. That seems to be the single act of faith by David that moved God to make the Davidic Covenant. The entirety of eschatology, and most of the Psalms – rest upon this covenant. If you have not read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now. It is impossible to understand prophecy on any level in the Word of God if you do not understand the Davidic covenant....

## VIII

***1 And after the covenant was made it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines.***

***2 And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.***

***3 David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.***

***4 And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.***

~ This report finds David fully established in his kingdom. He is once again engaged against his perpetual and persistent enemy, Palestine. The Palestinians were dominant during this period of history, particularly in the southern part of Israel. In Deuteronomy, we learned the Mosaic Law prohibited the king from multiplying horses and wives. So, it's interesting how David obeyed by getting rid of the horses; but didn't even acknowledge the command against multiplying wives. And David did multiply wives. At this point in our Biblical account, we can't even keep track of all the wives; and, when we get to the account of Solomon's life, we will see Solomon multiplied horses *AND* wives....

***5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.***

***6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.***

***7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.***

***8 And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.***

***9 When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer,***

***10 Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:***

***11 Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;***

**12 Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.**

**13 And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.**

**14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.**

**15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.**

**16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;**

**17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe;**

**18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.**

~ We're not going into much detail in this chapter; but, if you are a serious student of Scripture, you'll want to get a map of Israel and consider the various places David moved through and conquered. He now expands the borders of Israel to the north, south and east; and expands the land to contain the largest geographical area it will control in the history of the nation. This also made them a world super-power in the day in which we are studying....

## **IX**

**1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?**

~ This chapter reveals the character of David that made him a man after God's own heart. Most people dwell on David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah; and that's a natural thing for humans to do. Picture a very large white linen tablecloth with one tiny black ink spot on it. That little black spot not only stands out, but it draws your eye. In fact, it's all you see. That's how the life of David and his black sin are viewed in the Word of God. The noble exploits in his life are passed over. There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it behooves all of us not to gossip about any of us. My estimate is that we ought to be very careful in the theology and doctrine we form concerning King David.

There are some wonderfully bright spots in the long life of David as he grows from a little shepherd boy to an experienced old king who could write tremendous Psalms. Here, we have one such story in the account of Mephibosheth. We first met Mephibosheth in chapter four. He was a grandson of Saul and the son of Jonathan. Jonathan and Saul were both killed in battle, and Mephibosheth had been hasted away for fear of David killing him. During the panicked escape, Mephibosheth had been injured. The custom of that day would have been for any new king to put to death all children and descendants of the former dynasty who may have had the right to the throne. No one would have questioned David for killing all of the descendants of Saul. We know David wasn't squeamish about doing such things. We also know David had made an oath with Jonathan, Mephibosheth's father....

***2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.***

***3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.***

***4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.***

**5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.**

**6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!**

**7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.**

**8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?**

**9 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.**

**10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.**

**11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.**

**12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth.**

**13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.**

~ In verse six, Mephibosheth fully expected this was the end for him. His reaction to David lends the title for this report. It's simply a lovely gesture as David puts a helpless man at ease by showing him kindness. If there had been any other king on the throne, we would have a completely different

ending to this story. Remember, in the case of Abigail, David did this same thing when Nabal - whose name means "fool" - refused to simply help David with some food. David acted very nobly showing Abigail kindness. I think after that incident, Abigail called Nabal "idiot." – And Nabal certainly was an idiot for insulting David the way he did.

So, we have some great spiritual truths here I wouldn't have you miss for the world. See, the child of God needs to recognize that we, too, are crippled – we're crippled by sin. God says man's feet are "*swift to shed blood.*" That's His summation of the human race, in general. God says concerning man, "*they've ALL gone out of the way!*" Our feet can *ONLY* naturally lead us astray, friends. We're told very definitely "*each one has turned to his own way.*" Proverbs says, "*....there is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof is death!*" See, if we follow and direct our own feet, they get us in trouble – every time. The soul and the feet are closely connected in Scripture, too; and I'm not talking about the sole of your feet:

*Psalm 56:13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living? ~*

*Psalm 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped ~*

*Psalm 116:8 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling ~*

David wrote all of the above Psalms. We now know David is responsible for a son of Saul who is sitting at his table in the palace his entire life; and who was lame in both feet. David knew exactly what it meant to be crippled; and you can just write it down that you and I are crippled by sin before God at His table.

Today, modern religious philosophy and contemporary humanism both present an altogether different picture of mankind. The liberal asserts Christ came to reveal the splendors of the human soul. The problem is, God

says, *“out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts and is desperately wicked.”* My friend, you cannot expect *ANYTHING* good from human nature. Paul said, *“... I know that in my flesh dwelleth no good thing.”* He goes on to say he has no confidence in the flesh. The Only way, the Only truth and the Only life is in the Lord Jesus Christ. No man comes to the Father but by Christ.

Further, it's prudent to re-emphasize how David extended kindness to Mephibosheth for the sake of love for his father, Jonathan. David didn't even know Mephibosheth; but when he looked upon Mephibosheth, he saw Jonathan. Remember, David had made a covenant with Jonathan so long ago to show kindness and mercy and grace to his descendants.

God has saved you and me for the sake of another – His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. When God sees you and me in Christ, then He accepts us, and saves us on that basis alone. Notice David never mentions the feet of Mephibosheth. David never made any allusion to it. No, David treated this man as the royalty he was. Just as Mephibosheth sat at the king's table with his feet covered with the linen cloth – so are our sins blotted out and covered up by the death and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Hebrews 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more ~*

It's interesting how Mephibosheth never mentions his lame feet, either. Some Christians seem to revel in talking about the old days when they lived in sin; and they always take delight running other Christians down. It's too bad more Christians don't speak about the Lord Jesus Christ as I'm sure David and Mephibosheth spoke about Jonathan. I wish we so-called Christians had less time to engage in cheap-talk, and more time for our hearts to go out in love to help someone.

David's heart went out in love for Mephibosheth. Love beareth all things, endureth all things, believeth all things and hopeth all things – and love never fails, friends. The things we have been studying in these last several reports were written for our admonition. David couldn't heal Mephibosheth. When you finally realize that you cannot walk well pleasing to God, then it's time to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. The palsied man the

disciples let down through the roof was told by Jesus to rise and walk. God beseeches us that, by His mercies, we walk well pleasing to Him, by walking worthy of the high calling of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. The invitation has been sent out today into the highways and bi-ways and into the streets of your town; and God is inviting us to come to the table of salvation just as we are – crippled. That’s when God will shelter and feed us – when we come to Christ Jesus ~