

2 Samuel 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Kindness to Mephibosheth, emphasizing covenant faithfulness, grace. David's kindness to Mephibosheth illustrates *chesed* (חֶסֶד, covenant faithfulness/loyal love). This grace shown to Jonathan's crippled son demonstrates covenant loyalty transcending political expedience. The narrative foreshadows God's grace toward spiritually crippled humanity. Cross-references to David and Jonathan's covenant (1 Samuel 18:3, 20:14-17) and New Testament grace themes enrich understanding.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 9 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding covenant faithfulness, grace provide

crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of covenant faithfulness, grace?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי יִם	אַתָּה	הָאָדָמָה	אֶת	ל' ו'	וְעַבְדְּךָ
	Thou therefore and thy sons	the land		shall till	
	H1121	H127	H853	H0	H5647
בְּנֵי יִם	וְהִנֵּה ה'	וְהִנֵּה אֶת	עֲבָדֶיךָ:		
	Thou therefore and thy sons	for him and thou shalt bring	and thy servants		
	H1121	H935	H5650		
וּמִפִּיבֹשֶׁת	יֹאכָזְבָב	לֶחֶם	אֲדֹנָיִךְ		
	but Mephibosheth	bread	in the fruits that thy master's		
	H4648	H398	H113		
תָּמָד יֹאכָזְבָב	אֲדֹנָיִךְ	בְּנֵי יִם			
	shall eat	in the fruits that thy master's	Thou therefore and thy sons		
	H398	H113	H1121		
עָשָׂה רַחֲמֵשׁ ה'	וּלְצִיבָא	שִׁלְחָנִי	עַל	לֶחֶם	
	had fifteen	Now Ziba	at my table	bread	
	H2568	H6717	H7979	H5921	H3899
עֲבָדֶיךָ:	וְעֶשְׂרִים	בְּנֵי יִם			
	and thy servants	and twenty	Thou therefore and thy sons		
	H5650	H6242	H1121		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 9:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Samuel 19:28 (Parallel theme): For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?

Luke 14:15 (Parallel theme): And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

2 Kings 25:29 (Parallel theme): And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life.

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