

2 Samuel 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְלִבִּי יֵת	שָׁא וְל	עֲבָדְךָ:	וְשֵׁם ו
And there was of the house	of Saul	Thy servant	whose name
H1004	H7586	H5650	H8034
צִיבָא	וְקָרְאוּ	אֶל ל ו	דָּוִד
unto him Art thou Ziba	And when they had called	H0	H413 him unto David
H6717	H7121		H1732
וְיֵאמֶר	הַמֶּלֶךְ לִי	הָאֵת ה	צִיבָא א
And he said	the king	H413	H859
H559	H4428		unto him Art thou Ziba
			H6717
וְיֵאמֶר			
And he said			
H559			
עֲבָדְךָ:			
Thy servant			
H5650			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 19:17 (Kingdom): And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king.

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