

# 2 Samuel 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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

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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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וַשָּׁתַּחֲוֶה	וַיֹּאמֶר	מֶה	עֲבָדְךָ	כִּי
And he bowed	himself and said	H4100	What is thy servant	H3588
H7812	H559		H5650	
כִּנֵּי יְדֹ	אֵל	הֶכָּל	הַמֵּת	אֲשֶׁר
that thou shouldest look	H413	dog	upon such a dead	H834
H6437	H3611	H4191		H3644

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 16:9** (Parallel theme): Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

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