

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

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 (תּוֹהֵן, 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 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

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

וְיִשְׁתַּחַווּ	וְאָמַרְתָּ	מִהָּ	עַבְדָּךְ	כִּי
And he bowed	himself and said	H4100	What is thy servant	H3588
H7812	H559		H5650	
תְּחִזְקֵנִי:	אַשְׁר	רָ	כַּחֲזִקְנִי:	אַשְׁר
that thou shouldest look	לְבָ	אֶל	לְבָ	אֶל
H6437	H413	H3611	H4191	H834
dog	upon such a dead			H3644

Additional Cross-References

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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