

## II Samuel 9:1-13

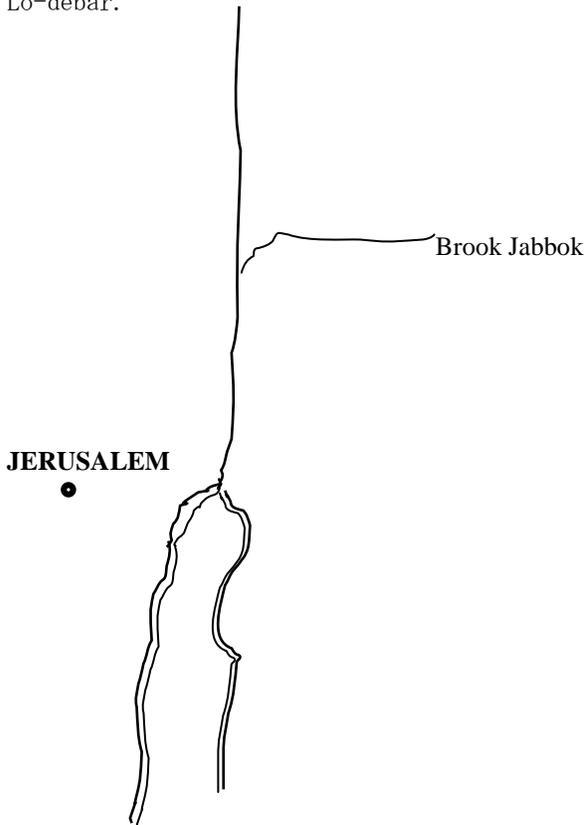
### Lesson #10, Remembering Old Friends and Covenants

Jonathan's prescient awareness of David's rise and to his own fall had led him to insist that David promise: 1. That when David rose to the throne of Israel he would spare Jonathan's life, and 2. That he should 'not cut off [his] steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth' (I Sam. 20:13-17).

When the Lord had cut off numerous and powerful enemies of David, the king recalled his vow. He recalled Jonathan's extraordinary kindnesses to him in his days of weakness. Thus, not only a sense of keeping his word, but also loving gratitude to his old friend, spurred him on to keep his promise. <sup>1</sup> 186, 187

Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" <sup>2</sup> Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." <sup>3</sup> The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet."

<sup>4</sup> So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar."



[1.] v:3, Reviewing II Sam 4:4, write what lead to Mephibosheth's injury

[2.] v:3, Do you suppose Ziba trusted David or just told the truth out of fear? Romans 13:1-7)

[3.] v:4, Lo-debar, (Debir or Lidebir) in Gilead, north of the Brook Jabbok, not far from Mahanaim.

Ungers Bible Dictionary

So, there is the Brook Jabbok but where is Mahanaim? It's up to you! Find Mahanaim & go ahead and write in the location of Lo-debar.

[4.] v:4, There has to be some logic as to why Machir would take Mephibosheth to live in that place. What was the reason?

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When Abner and Ish-bosheth were assassinated, no other near relative of Saul would venture into the public spotlight. It was common in the Middle East for a newly crowned ruler to exterminate the male of the former ruler's household. Any prominence of one who survived this carnage would give rise to whispers that he was a rival for the throne. Then ordinary citizens might kill him to gain special favor with the present king.<sup>2</sup>

5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. 6 Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!" 7 David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly." 8 Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"

**[5.] v:7, In this verse David promised Mephibosheth three things. What were they?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**[6.] v:8, Write down what you think Mephibosheth meant when he said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"**

**[7.] As descendants of Adam, Why did we also have a death sentence hanging over our head (Rom 5:12, 17-18)?**

**[8.] Describe how the Lord sought you out in order to also show you kindness?**

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9 Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson.

10 "You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do."

[8.] What would you think if Mephibosheth rejected David's offer of kindness?

[9.] v:9, David verified to Ziba what he promised Mephibosheth. Why would Ziba completely believe what David promised?

[10.] v:10, What charge/s did David give to Ziba?

[11.] v:11, What was Ziba's response to David's charge?

[12.] As a Christian leader, the Lord given you a charge. Since you know what it is, write it down?

[13.] Write down how you think David would have responded had Ziba became lax regarding David's charge?

[14.] How might a Christian leader's laxness "go down" with the Lord?

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Approximately 1,000 years later the Son of David was being tested by a lawyer (Lk 10:25-37) who asked Him, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Christ answered him by questioning him about what was written in God's word? The lawyer answered: , "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Christ assured him that if he did this, he would live. But wanting to justify himself the lawyer asked who might be his neighbor? Jesus replied:

30 "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. 31 "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 "Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,

34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'

[15.] v:30, The man that was beaten was left half dead. If ignored, what would have happened to him?

[16.] v:31-32 tell of two that passed by. V:33 tells of one felt compassion. What is the meaning of felt compassion?

[17.] How was Mephibosheth's existence like to being half dead?

[17.] v:34-35, list the things that the Samaritan did for the man?

[18.] How does your list remind you of what David did for Mephibosheth?

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36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

**[19.] What might you, as a Christian leader, learn from what David did for Mephibosheth?**

**[19.] v:37, What did the Son of David mean when He said, Go and do the same?**

and to conclude the lesson, let's go back to  
II Sam 9:11b

II Sam 9:11, So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.