

## 2 Samuel 9

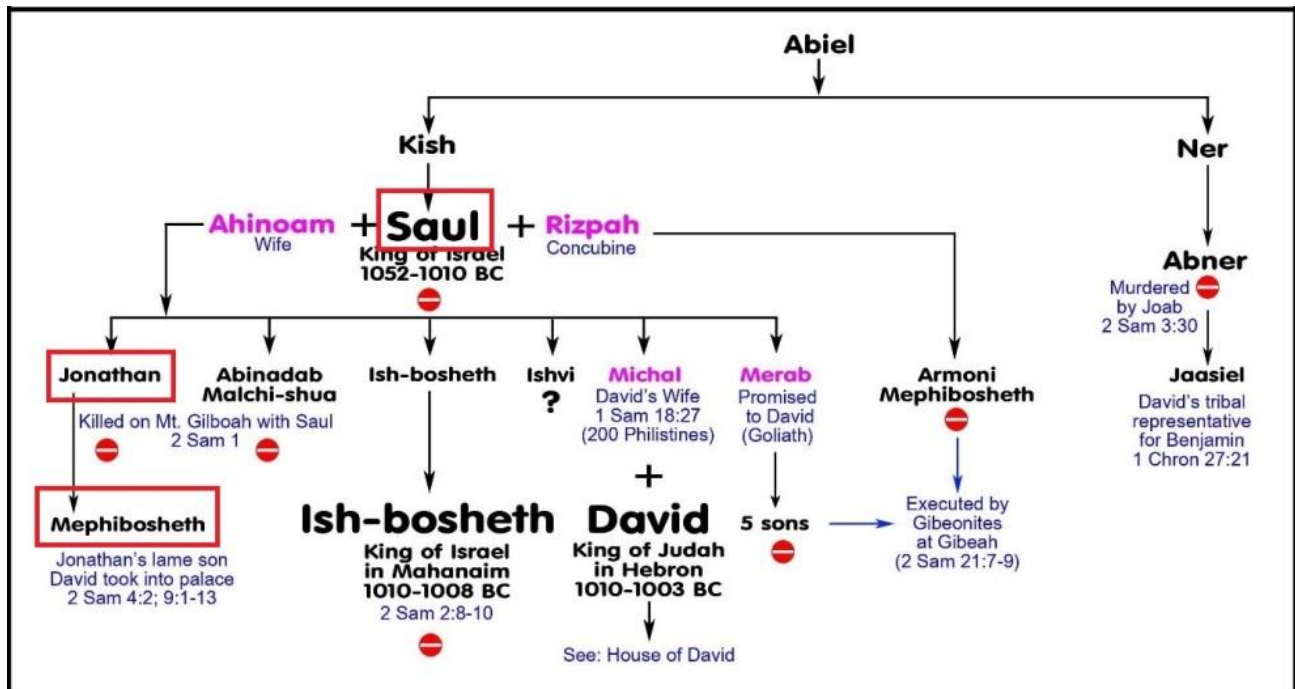
Verses 1 - 5

Then David said, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul, so that I could 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 summoned him to David; and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” And he said, “*I am* your servant.” <sup>3</sup> Then the king said, “Is there no one remaining of the house of Saul to whom I could show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan, one who is disabled 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.” <sup>5</sup> Then King David sent messengers who brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king said, “Is there no one remaining of the house of Saul to whom I could show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan, one who is disabled in both feet.

All the sons of Saul had been killed, but a son of Jonathan had survived.

See chart 905



When Saul and all of his sons were killed the properties that he owned were apparently left in the hands of one of his servants named Ziba. He was probably the foreman in charge of the land prior to Saul's death and after his death no one came forward to claim a right to it so it remained in his care.

Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan was crippled in his feet at the age of 5 but by this time Mephibosheth had grown up, married and become the father of a son.

See 1 Chronicles 8:34

<sup>34</sup> **The son of Jonathan was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal fathered Micah.**

<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."**

Machir lived at Lo-debar

See Map 910



Ammiel is the father of Bathshua (Bathsheba) and Machir was her brother.

Machir was a wealthy person and had taken the son of Jonathan into his estate and cared for him.

Verses 6 - 8

**<sup>6</sup> 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!” <sup>7</sup> Then David said to him, “Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you yourself shall eat at my table regularly.” <sup>8</sup> Again he prostrated himself, and said, “What is your servant, that you should be concerned about a dead dog like me?”**

**<sup>6</sup> 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!”**

This was the customary way of showing respect to kings.

**<sup>7</sup> Then David said to him, “Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you yourself shall eat at my table regularly.”**

David recognized the fear in Mephibosheth and quickly reassured him.

**<sup>8</sup> Again he prostrated himself, and said, “What is your servant, that you should be concerned about a dead dog like me?”**

This type of exaggeration was characteristic during that era. David used similar language referring to himself.

See 1 Samuel 24:14

**<sup>14</sup> After whom has the king of Israel gone out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single flea?**

Verses 9 - 12

**<sup>9</sup> Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson.**

**<sup>10</sup> 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 will have food to eat; nevertheless Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. <sup>11</sup> Then Ziba said to the king, "In accordance with everything that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. <sup>12</sup> Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. <sup>13</sup> So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he ate at the king's table regularly. And he was disabled in his two feet.**

**<sup>9</sup> Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson.**

Ziba was not happy about this change but one doesn't complain to the king about his decision. Besides Mephibosheth was the rightful heir to the land. However, there is more to this story and David will change his decision about this land two more times.

**<sup>10</sup> 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 will have food to eat; nevertheless Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.**

The size of Saul's estate most have been fairly substantial considering the fact that Ziba had 15 sons (how many wives and/or concubines) and twenty servants.

Even though Mephibosheth ate at David's table he still needed income to maintain a house in Jerusalem that was in keeping with the customs of royalty and a family to support. How the profits were divided between Mephibosheth and Ziba is not known.

**<sup>13</sup> So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he ate at the king's table regularly.**

The offspring of Mephibosheth became leading men in the tribe of Benjamin until the Captivity.

See 1 Chronicles 8:35-40

<sup>33</sup> Ner fathered Kish, Kish fathered Saul, and Saul fathered Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal. <sup>34</sup> The son of Jonathan was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal fathered Micah. <sup>35</sup> The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz. <sup>36</sup> Ahaz fathered Jehoaddah, Jehoaddah fathered Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri fathered Moza. <sup>37</sup> Moza fathered Binea; Raphah was his son, Eleasah, his son, and Azel, his son. <sup>38</sup> Azel had six sons, and these were their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel. <sup>39</sup> The sons of his brother Eshek were Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third. <sup>40</sup> The sons of Ulam were valiant mighty men, archers, and they had many sons and grandsons, 150 of them. All these were among the sons of Benjamin.

We have 12 generation listed here. From David (1000 BC) to the captivity (586 BC) was 414 years. The average generation for this family was 34 years.