

The son of a king developed a strong friendship with the son of a shepherd. Jonathan, the son of King Saul, made a covenant with David, the eighth son of Jesse. They marked their covenant by cutting one another to let their blood mix. Then, Jonathan gave David his robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt (*1 Samuel 18:4*). These items were given to say that whenever there is a fight/battle, you can count on me. You can have what I have if you need anything.

1. A Man's Promise

Their friendship developed, but so did King Saul's jealousy. David talked with Jonathan about his concern that the king wanted to kill him. Jonathan had seen God working through David and strengthened his covenant with David. He asked David to show him unfailing kindness and never cut off kindness from his family (*1 Samuel 20:14-16*).

King Saul's jealousy chased David into hiding. The king searched the Judean hills looking for him. In a battle with the enemies of the kingdom, Saul and Jonathan were killed. David became king. Because custom would call for the deaths of the members of the old king's family, the remaining family fled. A nurse dropped young Mephibosheth, crippling him.

Sometime later, King David wanted to show kindness to Jonathan's family. He asked if any of them were still living. He was told Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, was crippled in both feet and hiding in a desolate place called Lo Debar. David sent for him. The young man likely thought he was being summoned to his death. But King David wanted to show him kindness for Jonathan's sake. (We should note the word "kindness" is often repeated in this story because it is a covenant word.) Mephibosheth had a decision to make. Would he accept the gift of the king or did he want to return to the dust of Lo Debar? He chose to accept a place in the king's house and dine with the king.

2. God's Promise

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.
Jeremiah 31:33, 34b

On the night before Jesus was crucified, he sat with his followers in an upper room. He shared a meal with them. At a one point in the meal, he took a cup and said, *this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*
Luke 22:20

The disciples would have recognized the history we see recorded in *Hebrews*. *When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*
Hebrews 9:19-22

The people of God are *redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin.* (*1 Peter 1:19; 1 John 1:7*). We come to the Lord's Supper as the *church of God which he bought with his own blood.*
Acts 20:28

Mephibosheth appears as an Old Testament portrait of us. He was crippled by a fall. We have been crippled as we have fallen to sin. He existed on the back side of nowhere without hope. He was deceived into thinking he needed to hide from the king. Our sin deceives us, making us sure God couldn't love someone like us. But he created us, and his love instills value in us.

We hear David say, *is there anyone still left in the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?*"

2 Samuel 19:1

Will you allow the Holy Spirit to say to you *in Christ, God forgave you?*

Ephesians 4:32

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