

ZIBA – A SERVANT OF ...???

Ziba is mentioned 16x in 2 Samuel 9, 16,19

Paul Harvey: “and now you know the rest of the story!”

What do we find?

1. Ziba a servant of Saul | the household of Saul...

2 Samuel 9

This total story transpires 15-20 years after the death of Saul & Jonathan.

Completely mixed up with the story of Mephibosheth – a gospel story!

David wants to keep his promises &/ covenant with Jonathan.

2 Samuel 4:4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was **Mephibosheth**.

1 Samuel 20:14 And thou shalt **not only** while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: **1 Samuel 20:15** **But also** thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. **1 Samuel 20:16** **So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. 1 Samuel 20:17** And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

1 Samuel 20:42 And Jonathan said to David, **Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever.** And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

1 Samuel 23:16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. **1 Samuel 23:17** And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. **1 Samuel 23:18** **And they two made a covenant before the Lord:** and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

Ziba was as servant – a word capable of several nuances (even within the same text): slave, servant (so lower class), assistant / helper, & then minister / assistant (9:2,3,9,10,11,12)

- Ziba – a servant in Saul's household
- “Managing” Saul's property
- Mephibosheth living elsewhere (Why?)
- Things become more complex

- a. 9:7 restore??? After 15-20 years
- b. 9:9-10 a promotion for one becomes a demotion for another
- c. 9:10b The aside (from the author / Holy Spirit)
- d. 9:12 the second aside

2. Ziba – a servant of David...&...

2 Samuel 16:1 And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, **Ziba** the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

2 Samuel 16:2 And the king said unto Ziba, **What meanest thou by these?** And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

2 Samuel 16:3 And the king said, **And where is thy master's son?** And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

2 Samuel 16:4 Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

16:1 – at a crucial time and earlier than Barzilla, Ziba comes to help David

16:2-3 David is suspicious How do we know?

Proverbs 18:17 He that is first in his own cause **seemeth** just; But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

16:3 Whose thoughts are these?

16:4 ??? David didn't know & didn't have time to figure it out

3. Ziba – a servant of Ziba!

2 Samuel 19:24 And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.

2 Samuel 19:25 And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, **Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?**

2 Samuel 19:26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant **deceived me: for** thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame.

2 Samuel 19:27 And he hath **slandered** thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes.

2 Samuel 19:28 For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?

2 Samuel 19:29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, **Thou and Ziba divide the land.**

2 Samuel 19:30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

19:24 the author's comment! Physical evidence → can't fake it!

19:25 the question

19:26-27 Ziba deceived me & Ziba slandered me

19:27b-28, 30 humility, gratitude

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Thoughts:

(almost) All people are ambiguous

All can be more than one thing & are capable of more than one action

Motives can be mixed

Motives and actions can be complicated

We can't always unravel all of it