

## “King Of Kindness”

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What is **Lo-debar**? Where is **Lo-debar**?

It’s a dreary, dismal, desert place in the trans-Jordan and means, “**No Thing**” (*No Place!*)

Who lived there? His name is **Mephi-Bosheth** (“from the mouth of shame!”)

His is a life of tragedy and turmoil:

- His mother died when he was an infant.
- His father (Jonathan) and grandfather (King Saul) were slain on the same day. **1 Samuel 31**
- While fleeing, his nurse drops him, and he is crippled for life. **2 Samuel 4:4**
- He is now an outcast orphan and lives in exile in Lo-debar.

But... things are going to change for Mephi-Bosheth. *2 Samuel 9:1-13* recounts what happens because of the King of Kindness!

### A King Who Is Willing To Search For The Lost!

Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake? And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” He said, “At your service!” Then the king said, “Is there not still someone 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 lame in his feet.” So the king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.” Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?” And he answered, “Here is your servant!” So David said to him, “Do not fear.” **2 Samuel 9:1-7a (NKJV)**

### A King Who Is Eager To Offer Grace!

Then he (Mephi-Bosheth) bowed himself, and said, “What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?” **2 Samuel 9:8 (NKJV)**

## A King Who Is Inclined To Be Kind!

Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” **2 Samuel 9:1**

So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.” **2 Samuel 9:7**

Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” **2 Samuel 9:3**

King David looked for **anybody**, found a **nobody**, and because he is the King, made him **somebody!**

### Is there a more compelling picture of redemption in the bible?

Mephi-Bosheth’s name begins with “ME”... He is me! I am him! Mephi-Bosheth is everyman! We are all Mephi-Bosheth... until the KING finds us!

### The King of Kindness radically changes our condition and position!

- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we were **lame** (9:3)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we were **dead** (9:8)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we were **lost** (9:4)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we needed to be **found** (9:5)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we are undeserving and need **grace** (9:3)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we get a **gift** (9:1, 3)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we receive a **new life** (9:9)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we are given an **inheritance** (9:9)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we have a **new home** (9:13)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we now sit at the **king’s table** (9:11, 13)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, we have a **new identity** (9:11)
- Like Mephi-Bosheth, our position is **permanent** (9:7, 13)

The whole of the narrative of Mephi-Bosheth and King David is the truth of *2 Corinthians 5:17*

***“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)***

And once you are found... once you are saved... there is no more  
“Mephi-Bosheth.”

**There is no more shame!**

- “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”  
*Romans 10:11 (NKJV)*
- Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.  
*Psalms 34:5 (ESV)*

The whole of this amazing OT story prefigures the NT... God’s  
Kindness, Mercy, and Grace...

***“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”***  
*Ephesians 2:4-7*

David knew this by experience: ***“The Lord pulled ME up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock and established our goings and has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God and many shall see it and fear and shall trust in the Lord!”***  
*Psalms 40:2-3*

God loves you the way you are... But He loves you too much to leave you that way!