

## **“The Ultimate Reunion”**

Easter Sunday March 27, 2016

**2 Corinthians 5:19,21** *“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ... God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

**CORE:** The “good news” is this—Jesus has done everything necessary to completely forgive us and fully restore us. Our response is—to believe, receive, & surrender to His love.

### **1. FORESHADOWED THROUGHOUT THE OT**

**Colossians 2:17-** *“These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”*

**One such story begins in 1 Samuel 18:3,4:**

*“And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.”*

NOTE: Though these young men were in their teens—this **covenant stood for generations**. They both stood as **representatives of descendants yet unborn**.

**A short time later, they reaffirmed their covenant & its impact on the future:**

**David said to Jonathan:**

*“You shall not only show me the kindness of the Lord while I still live...but you shall **not cut off your kindness from my house forever.**” (1 Samuel 20:14)*

**And Jonathan said to David:**

*“May the Lord be between you and me, and **between your descendants and my descendants forever.**” (1 Samuel 20:42)*

**As King Saul, Jonathan’s father, became jealous of and hostile toward David, Jonathan made this pledge:**

*“Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. **You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you.** Even my father knows that.” (1 Samuel 23:17)*

NOTE: Jonathan **laid down his right** to the throne—declaring David to be his king!

**Tragically, Saul & Jonathan were killed by the Philistines—who then sought to kill all of their descendants:**

Before they could do that, a nurse picked up Jonathan's son, **Mephibosheth**, running from the palace to save his life. In her haste, she fell—crushing the child's legs, forever crippling him.

Years passed, yet **David never forgot the covenant** he made with Jonathan. When he had established his kingdom, he began searching for Jonathan's descendants—that he might **fulfill his oath** and show **covenant kindness to them**. 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)*

NOTE: In those days, the expected action would be for David to kill all of Saul's descendants. Yet, **covenant love (mercy) prevailed over judgment!**

**In 2 Samuel 9, David located Mephibosheth—sending his men to bring him to David's royal palace at Lo Debar.**

**In spite of the fact that, Mephibosheth:**

- **Hated David** (*though he had never seen David*)
- **Had no awareness of David's covenant with Jonathan, his father**
- **Had been taught to see David as the enemy—that he had stolen everything that rightly belonged to him** (*Deep fear & resentment*)

**Yet, David melted Mephibosheth's hard heart with these words:**

*"Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake. And I will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually!" (2 Samuel 9:7)*

**Mephibosheth had a choice to make:**

- **He could reject the offer**—choosing to remain **distant & embittered**
- **He could choose family loyalty over David's kind offer of full restoration**
- **Or...he could choose to "die" to past goals, identities, relationships and "rise" to become a royal prince in David's house—which he did; allowing the covenant to change his life forever!**

**As a result, Mephibosheth was:**

- **Taken into David's house**
- **Treated as a prince**
- **Ate with David every day—as a continuous covenant meal!**

*"As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table as a king's son."  
"And so Mephibosheth remained in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table—though he was lame in both his feet." (2 Samuel 9:11,13)*

## **2. BROUGHT INTO REALITY THRU JESUS**

### **Like Mephibosheth:**

- We were born into the family of Adam—hostile to God
- We, too, were crippled by the “fall”—by the LIE that we could live w/o God
- We were certain God was “against us”—seeking to destroy us
- We were ignorant of a covenant made 2,000 years ago—yet, planned **before** the world was created!
- Instead, we were stunned by His heart of love and His words of forgiveness!!!
  - Jesus IS the Lamb who “took our sins out of the way” (i.e., “remission”)
  - His “blood of the new covenant (was) shed for many for the remission of sins (*to totally take out of the way—no longer an issue between us!!!*)” Matthew 26:28)
- All the riches of the Kingdom have been turned over to us—we have become “heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus” (Romans 8:17)
- We can now say “Yes” to the covenant Jesus said “Yes” to on our behalf!
  - *“For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.” (2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT)*
- We now take our place at the royal table continually—as princes and princesses—basking in the love of our Father, eating the meal of covenant!

**John 14:18- “I will not leave you as orphans—I will come to you!”**

- **“Leave”- *to ignore or minimize; view with indifference; treat as insignificant***
- **“Orphans”- *“those left in the dark” (Lit.), outside of interaction & revelation, uncovered, unprotected, w/o provision***
- **“Come to”- *revealing, falling upon (i.e., as the father of the prodigal son); running ahead of the town elders (Kezazah ceremony—shattered pot; unable to be restored; forever cut off!)***