

THE KINGLY KINDNESS OF DAVID

II Samuel 8: 15; chapter 9



Many years had passed since the young Prince Jonathan and David had promised always to be true friends. David was king of Israel. He was rich and his people loved him dearly, but he still missed his boyhood friend. One day he called to him an old servant of Saul's family and asked him if there was not somewhere some member of that great family still alive, so that he could show him kindness, for Jonathan's sake.

Then Ziba told him a secret that he had known all these years. He told him that in another country, Jonathan's son was living. He was now a grown-up man, but when Jonathan was killed in battle this little son was five years old. His nurse knew that the Philistines might try to kill him because he was now the "crown prince" and the people would want him to be king; so when news of the battle came, she took him in her arms and ran to hide him; but in some way she fell, and the poor little boy was made lame so that always he must walk with a crutch. He had lived all these years with some friends.

David commanded at once that this prince, Mephibosheth, should be brought to his palace. He loved anyone that had ever belonged to Jonathan.

It may have been that the lame prince was a bit frightened