

米非波設：絕望中蒙王拯救

撒下 9; 16:1-4; 19:24-30

## MEPHIBOSHETH

II Samuel 9; 16:1-4; 19:24-30

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## 米非波設

### MEPHIBOSHETH

他是一名皇孫。

他的父親曾被膏立為以色列的王子，是有希望即位的王儲。

是以色列登基順位排名第一的王子。

他生於如狼的便雅憫支派（譯按：參創四十九 27）。

但承傳到米非波設時，已經少有狼的氣息。米非波設是隻可憐蟲，是家道中衰的落水狗。

他是一名國破家亡的王儲。他本可以與大衛建立起關係的。正是我們每個人的寫照。

但，奇蹟中的奇蹟，一切都翻轉改變了。故事告訴我們，這可憐、失落的米非波設，藉著上主受膏者的恩典（而不是憑著他自己的本事），竟然能與以色列榮耀的王大衛，建立起奇妙的關係。

He was the grandson of a king.

His father had been crown prince of Israel, Heir apparent to the throne.

Israel's 1st crown prince.

He was born into the wolf-tribe of Benjamin. But there wasn't much of the wolf left in Mephibosheth. A poor, fallen, fugitive dog of a man was Mephibosheth.

Heir to a lost estate. A picture of us all. Able to establish a relationship with David.

But, wonder of wonders, all this was changed. The story tells how, through no merits of his own, through the grace of the Lord's Anointed, poor, lost Mephibosheth was brought into a magnificent relationship with David, Israel's glorious King.

#### I . 這關係是如何開始的

故事不是從米非波設開始的，我們先得回頭看：

##### A. 他父親的歸信

我們能確認約拿單是在什麼時候把心獻給大衛的。

那天，一名來自伯利恆的年輕小伙子，跑到以色列的軍營來，毛遂自薦的要進死亡谷，去殺掉那個來自迦特的巨人歌利亞。這巨人的力氣大到可以置人於死地。

我們記得那個故事……

「我說押尼珥啊，那個年輕人足可以取代我了。」約拿單看到耶西的兒子何等俊美。

他便把自己的一切都呈獻於大衛腳前。

這也讓他在父親面前吃足了苦頭。

當約拿單宣佈，他已把心獻給大衛，他已把全人全心的愛、忠誠和主權，都獻給大衛，是的！甚至連寶座也獻給大衛時，掃羅簡直氣壞了。

約拿單毫不在乎！約拿單無時無刻不承認，大衛是他的主，也永遠是他的主。掃羅氣到想殺掉他。

## I. HOW THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS COMMENCED

The story does not begin with Mephibosheth. We have to go back and consider:

### A. His Father's Conversion

We know exactly when it was that Jonathan gave his heart to David.

It was the day when the young man from Bethlehem came into the camp of Israel and offered to go down into the valley of death and to destroy the great Philistine giant from Gath. He who had the power of death.

We remember the story . . . .

"I say Abner, that young man has taken my place."

Saw beauty in the Son of Jesse.

Put all he had at David's feet.

It cost Jonathan dearly in his father's house.

When Jonathan announced that he had given his heart to David, that he had surrendered his all, his life, his love, his loyalty, his lordship, yes! even the throne to David, Saul was furious.

No matter! At every opportunity he confessed David as Lord to one and all.

Saul was so enraged he even tried to murder him.

但是在約拿單自己的家中，這卻是另一個故事。

原先，大衛的名字在這兒是備受稱讚、尊榮的。

當米非波設還幼小時，他常一遍又一遍的聽到有關大衛是救主、是主、是王的真理。

約拿單衷心期待，大衛登上王座的日子快快來臨。

米非波設會說：

「可是，我以為是你要作王啊，父親。」

「喔，不是的，兒子。我不作王！大衛才是上主的受膏者，不是我。」

當那一日來臨，大衛要登上寶座為王，治理神的子民。」

但故事還沒結束……

But in Jonathan's own home it was a much different story.

There, the name of David was a praised and honored name.

When Mephibosheth was a little boy he would hear again and again truths about David as SAVIOR, LORD, and KING.

It was Jonathan's joy to anticipate the day when David would sit upon the throne.

Mephibosheth would say:

"But I thought you were going to be king, father."

"O no my son, I'm not going to be king! David is the LORD'S ANOINTED, NOT ME.

The day is coming when David will sit upon the throne and rule and reign over the people of God."

But that was not all . . . .

有一天，約拿單出到曠野，單獨與神所抉擇的王在一起：

「大衛，我們活在黑暗中，死亡隨時會臨到我，因此我要告訴你關於我那小兒子的事。他名叫米非波設，我要拜託你，萬一我有個三長兩短，你可否記念我的兒子，設法找到他，救他一命，作他的保護者，作他的王…  
望你施恩予他，盡你所能的照顧他。」

There was the day when Jonathan went out into the wilderness to be alone with God's chosen king:

"We are living in dark days, David. Death could overtake me at any time, so I want to talk to you about my little boy. His name is Mephibosheth. I would ask you, if something should happen to me, that you would remember my boy, and reach out to him as his deliverer, protector and king - -

That you would bless him and put him within the scope and sphere of your care."

這關係就是這樣開始的，始於他父親的歸信大衛以及對大衛的愛戴。

我們當中也有些人，生來就有無比的榮幸，因為誕生在一個敬拜主、頌讚耶穌的家庭。這是極大的恩寵，因為，你很可能生在：

一個無神論的家。那從小就被教導對屬靈的事要嗤之以鼻，或是一個佛教家庭，或是一個印度教家庭——崇拜偶像。

然而，你卻是生在一個頌讚神的家，從小就學習基督教那最偉大、有永恆確據的信仰。

不過，這不僅是你的大榮幸，也是你的大危機…既是大光，也是巨大責任！

你們當中有些人可能在成長時就變得**叛逆**了，像那個浪子一樣。你覺得父母很古板，太嚴格，老是要扼殺我們的興趣。

還有一種危險，你可能變得對福音硬心了，因此轉身去背對神，與基督背道而馳，甚至開始厭惡家庭崇拜。當你對各種限制開始生煩時，就是你準備棄絕基督的時刻了。

So that is how it all commenced. It began with his father's conversion and subsequent love for David.

There are some here who have had the inestimable privilege of being born into a family where the Lord Jesus is loved and praised. Yours is a very great privilege. You could have been born into:

An atheist home. Taught to scoff at spiritual things, or -

A Buddhist home, perhaps a Hindu home - - and worshipped idols.

But you were born into a home blessed of God, a home where you learned from childhood the great, eternal certainties of the Christian faith.

Yours is not only a very great privilege, yours is also a very great peril . . . great light, great responsibility!

Perhaps some of you have grown up REBELLIOUS, as the Prodigal Son, and you think your parents are narrow-minded, too strict, and that they are determined to spoil your fun. There is great danger that you may become Gospel Hardened and turn from God and Christ, even to begin to despise family devotions. You are ready to reject Christ because you are angry at restrictions.

然後，還有…

## B. 他自己的狀況

我們看見，米非波設當時是

### (1) 被禁絕靠近大衛

我們想到他的苦毒怨恨，是掃羅王造成的。

至少有廿四次，掃羅刻意要殺大衛。

還有，掃羅家族與大衛之間長久的戰爭。

之後，掃羅的家族沒落了。後來，整個家族崩毀的消息四處傳開。

米非波設那時才是個五歲的小男孩。他的爹死了。

他的乳母不識得大衛。倘若她識得，就不會發生後來的事了。

她以為：「大衛一定會宰掉這個男孩！他一定會的。他會視之為妨礙他登基的對手。他一定會把掃羅的骨肉殺個一乾二淨的。」

所以她抱起小男孩就逃。又倉促、又害怕，小男孩掉到地上，這一跌就慘了，兩條腿都癱了；終生都是跛的，兩條腿都廢了。跌落的犧牲者。

然而，乳母還是想法子帶米非波設逃到遠處一個名叫羅底巴的地方…離大衛遠遠的！她把他藏在瑪吉的家，瑪吉是亞米利的兒子。那是個「無水草」的**乾旱無水之地**。

因此，他與大衛就如此被慘劇、遠距和無能為力所隔離。

因此，他成長的過程，不用說，就被乳母灌輸了一堆愚蠢的八卦，懼怕大衛，懼怕死亡。「米非波設，小心些，別四處張揚，」她總是這麼告誡他。「永遠不能忘記，大衛會把你看作威脅他王位的眼中釘。一旦被他抓到，你就沒命了。」

他太不認識大衛了。大衛根本不是這樣的人！

Then too, there was - -

## **B. His Own Condition**

We observe that Mephibosheth was

### (1) **Barred from David**

We think of the bitter hatred fostered by King Saul.

On at least 24 occasions Saul made deliberate attempts to murder David.

Further, there was that long war between the house of Saul and David.

Then Saul's house fell in ruins. Word of the total collapse spread far and wide.

Mephibosheth was only a little boy of 5. His father was dead. His nurse did not know David. If she had known David she would never have done what she did.

She thought: "David will kill him! That's what he'll do. He will see him as a rival to the throne. He'll make a clean sweep of Saul's kin."

So she seized the boy and fled. In their haste and fright, he stumbled and fell and the fall was disastrous. Both his feet were broken, badly broken; so much so that he was lame for life, lame on both his feet. A victim of the fall.

Never the less, the nurse was able to get Mephibosheth and herself, to distant Lo-debar... a long way from David! She hid him in the house of Machir, son of Amiel in the place of "no pasture." In a DRY and THIRSTY LAND.



Thus he was barred from David by disaster, by distance and by disability. He grew up thus and, doubtless he was fed by the foolish gossip of his nurse. And grew up afraid of David. Afraid for his very life. "Keep a low profile Mephibosheth," she would say. "Never forget David counts you as a royal rival to the throne. He'll kill you if he ever catches you."

How little he knew him. David wasn't like that at all!

## (2) 然後，他終於被帶往大衛那裡去。

還有哪個故事比這更奇妙的？請聽聽大衛親口所說的這段奇妙的話語：

「掃羅家還有人沒有？我要照上帝的慈愛待他。」（譯按：撒下九3）

這不就是大衛嗎？這不就跟耶穌很相像嗎？偉大的大衛、他偉大的後裔！

祂來自榮耀的大宅邸，離開象牙的宮廷，進入受咒詛的世界，出生在牲畜的廄房裡，生來就是要朝黑暗的加略山去，準備向我們顯明神的慈愛。

「他見我被墮落所毀

卻仍不顧一切的愛護慕我；

祂救我脫離迷途，

祂慈憐的愛，何等偉大！」

這一切都是大衛主動的。米非波設什麼都沒作。

是大衛差遣他的信使，施恩找尋到可憐而失迷的米非波設。

是大衛發出「福音」的邀請。

「來！」

照著你的本相來！

## (2) Then One Day He Was brought to David.

Is there a more wonderful story than this? Listen to these wonderful words which fell from the lips of David:

"Is there not yet any of the house of Saul that I may show the kindness of God

unto him?" Isn't that just like David! Is not that, too, just like Jesus, great David's greater Son!

He came from the mansions of glory. Out of the ivory palaces, into a world of woe. To be born in a cattle shed. Born to go to dark Calvary in order to show us the kindness of God.

"He saw me ruined by the fall,  
Yet loved me not withstanding all,  
He saved me from my lost estate,  
His loving kindness, O how great."

All the initiative was with David. Mephibosheth had nothing to do with it. It was David who sent the messengers of his grace to find poor lost Mephibosheth. It was David who articulated the "Gospel" invitation.

"Come!"

Come just as you are!

我常會想像，當米非波設看到那一隊軍馬兵丁朝他奔馳而至時，他心中會怎麼想。拄著拐杖，蹣跚搖晃的小碎步…

不用說，差點兒要摔跤一般的無處可躲。

「米非波設呢？」官兵問道，那名狼狽的逃命者，兩條癱腿無助的晃著。「王最無用的僕人在此。」米非波設答道。「**我主我王向你致他最仁慈的問安。謹在此宣召王命，邀請你速速前去吾王尊前。**你只要按著你的本相，速速前去，因為王急於尋見你。不得以任何藉口推辭，現在即刻起身。因為我們的上主君王急於要向你彰顯神的慈愛。」

你認為米非波設會怎麼想？

你自己呢？

我們的信息很簡單，就是這樣：我們的上主君王要向你彰顯神的慈愛。

我懷疑米非波設會相信自己的耳朵。恐怕當時身邊的人會提醒他要小心點兒。「別去，米非波設，這是陷阱。」米非波設把一切懷疑置之度外。

他立刻起身，回應王的邀請。

他們的關係便這樣開始了。

I have often wondered what Mephibosheth must have thought when he saw the soldiers spurring their horses towards him. A few feeble, faltering steps on his crutches...

A stumble, no doubt, another fall with no place to hide.

"Mephibosheth?" demanded the captain, as the bedraggled fugitive was hauled up onto his useless feet. "The king's most abject slave," said Mephibosheth. "MY LORD THE KING SENDS YOU HIS KINDEST GREETINGS. YOU ARE HEREBY REQUIRED AND COMMANDED TO APPEAR BEFORE HIS MAJESTY FORTHWITH.

You are to come just as you are. You are to make all diligence for the king's business requireth haste. All excuses ceasing. You are to come right now. For our lord the king desires to show you the kindness of God."

What do you suppose Mephibosheth thought of that?

What do you think of that?

Our message is simply this: Our Lord the King wants to show you the kindness of God.

I suspect Mephibosheth could hardly believe his ears. I suspect there were those who advised caution. "Don't go Mephibosheth. It's a trap. Mephibosheth thrust all doubts aside. He responded at once to the invitation of the king.

This is how this relationship was commenced.

## II. 這關係是如何發展的

「約拿單是掃羅的兒子，而約拿單的兒子米非波設此刻來到了大衛跟前，臉伏於地，向大衛下拜。大衛告訴他，別害怕；我一定會因你父親約拿單的緣故，向你施慈愛。我也要把你先祖掃羅的所有土地歸還給你，你要繼續和我同桌吃飯。」

### A. 他蒙大衛賜予他財產

大衛開始歸還米非波設原先所失去的土地。

他也賜予米非波設維持適度尊嚴的一切所需，以及日後出現在王面前起碼該有的裝扮、行頭。

總不能穿一身破爛，去覲見皇上吧。

總不成彎腰駝背像個乞丐般的在皇宮晃吧。

他得生活的高一些的水平上。可他又維持不了這開銷，因此，大衛供應他這一切。

## **II. HOW THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS CULTIVATED**

"Now then Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul was come to David, he fell on his face and did reverence. And David said unto him, fear not: for I will surely show kindness unto thee for Jonathan thy father's sake.

And I will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father, and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually."

### **A. He Entered into the Possessions David Gave Him**

David began by restoring to Mephibosheth all his lost estates.

He bestowed on him all that he needed to maintain himself with the proper dignity and appearance of one who must henceforth appear before the king.

It would never do to appear in the royal presence arrayed in a ruin of rags.

It would never do for him to slouch around the palace looking like a beggar.

He must live on a higher plane. He could not live that kind of life. So David gave him all he needed.

幾乎保羅所有的書信，都告訴我們：我們活在基督裡，可以經歷到永不枯竭的能源。

我們與基督一同坐在天上。

蒙神賜予「不能朽壞、不能玷污、不能衰殘的基業。」

他把皇宮的寶藏向我們敞開，然後說：「別客氣，自己來吧。」

「你來就近一君王  
向他大大開口求，  
因祂滿有恩與愛  
永不拒人千里外。」

因祂有無限豐富的恩典，要永遠讓我們支取。

Nearly all the Pauline Epistles were written to tell us what inexhaustible resources we have in Christ.

Seated with Christ in heavenly places.

Given "an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and which fadeth not away."

He has flung open the royal treasury. He says "Help yourself man! Help yourself."

"Thou art coming to a king  
Large petitions with thee bring,  
For His love and grace are such  
None can ever ask too much."

All the exceeding riches of His grace are ours for the taking.

### B. 他蒙大衛賜予他地位

「你要永遠與我同席吃飯。」這句話出現過四次。

王說：「至於米非波設，他要像王的兒子一樣，與我同桌吃飯。」

於是，米非波設住在耶路撒冷，「常與王同席吃飯；他兩腿都是癱的。」（譯按：撒下九 13）

他勇敢的來到王面前，把王的話當話，把他那可憐的兩條腿，藏放在飯桌下。因著大衛王的恩典，他可以在皇宮坐席。

我們也是如此的與基督一同坐席，超過一切執政掌權的，一切坐寶座的，一切有統治權的，超過所有的名，不只今生的，還有來生的。

### **B. He Entered into the Position David Gave Him**

"Thou shalt eat bread at my table continually." The statement is repeated four times.

"As for Mephibosheth," said the king. "he shall eat at my table as one of the king's sons."

So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, "for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet."

He came boldly, taking the king at his word, and hid his poor lame feet under the table itself. He sat there, a tribute to David's grace.

Just so we are seated with Christ, far above all principalities and powers, all thrones and dominions, above every name that is named, not only in this world but also in the world to come.

### III. 這關係受到破壞

當押沙龍叛變，大衛被人排拒時，效忠大衛的許多人，跟著他一起逃亡。  
但米非波設卻留在原地。

為什麼？

洗巴這個便雅憫人是大衛安排來照顧米非波設的（譯按：撒下十六 1），他卻匆匆預備了食物，單獨在路上等著大衛。

大衛追問：

「你主人的兒子呢？」

「米非波設呢？」

「喔！喔！」洗巴說，「他妄想今日是個好時機，等著要取回他以為該歸還他的王權呢。」

這是個無恥的謊言。我認為，這明顯看得出，洗巴厭惡米非波設，對大衛也不是真愛。他是便雅憫支派的，在掃羅手下時很吃香。

他不甘於只作米非波設的僕人。

他馬馬虎虎的服侍米非波設，還欺哄米非波設。

他想要瞞騙大衛，讓他以為米非波設是個叛徒。

### III. HOW THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS CRITICIZED

When the Absalom rebellion broke out and David was rejected of men, most of David's loyalists joined him in his rejection.

Mephibosheth remained behind.

Why?

Ziba, a Benjamite installed by David to take care of Mephibosheth's affairs hastened after David with unexpected supplies.

David demanded:

"Where's thy master's son?"

"Where's Mephibosheth?"

"Ho! Ho!" said Ziba, "he thinks this is the opportunity he's been waiting for to seize the KINGDOM which he thinks is rightfully his."

That was a BAREFACED LIE. It seems clear enough to me that Ziba detested Mephibosheth, and had no love for David either. He was a Benjamite and had done well under Saul.

He was put out at being made a mere servant to Mephibosheth.

He stood there and threw mud on Mephibosheth. Told lies about him.

Convinced David that Mephibosheth was a traitor.

這當然是謊言！誰會相信，押沙龍造反，叛變他爹，只為的是要把王權交給米非波設呢？

不可能嘛！

大衛應該能看穿洗巴。你只要看看他跟哪些人為伍……

聖靈寫到，他常在示每這個老奸巨滑、對大衛滿口詛咒的人身邊。

我們可以從中認知到一件事。像米非波設這樣失落的可憐蟲，一旦有一日可以來到大衛面前，又確定自此可以蒙皇上賜他**產業**，並能獲得現今的**地位**時，你一定能看到，有人就會開始厭惡他，造謠毀謗他，嫉妒他，欺哄他。

Of course they were lies! How could anyone imagine that Absalom had raised the Red Flag of Rebellion against David in order to hand the kingdom over to Mephibosheth? Incredible!

David should have seen through Ziba. You only have to look at the kind of company he kept --

The Holy Spirit puts him alongside wicked old Shimei, a man with a mouth full of curses for David.

There is one thing we can learn from all this. Once let a man, a poor fallen man like Mephibosheth, come to David and make up his mind he is going to henceforth enter into the POSSESSIONS bestowed royally upon him, and likewise into the POSITION that is

now his -- you can be sure of one thing; there are going to be those who resent him, those who criticize him, are jealous of him, those who will tell lies about him.

#### IV. 真相如何大白

局勢又翻轉過來了。押沙龍的叛變已獲救平。

大衛光復了失土。聖靈說：「掃羅的孫子米非波設下去迎接王。」（撒下十九 24）

可是你瞧他：

「他自從王去的日子，直到王平安回來，沒有修腳，沒有剃鬚鬚，也沒有洗衣服。」

米非波設實在也是不得已的，不是嗎？但有件事他可以做的…

在美國（南北）內戰時，有一座城被政府（北）軍佔領。戰士正要揮軍入城。沿途經過一間木屋，有個嬌小的老婦正坐在她家的前廊，揮舞著一面邦聯（南方）的旗幟。

「老婦人！你揮著這面旗是什麼意思？」

「我可以表達我的立場啊！」

跛腳的米非波設不太能為大衛作什麼。

可是他還是作了他能作的。

#### IV. HOW THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS CONFESSED

Again, times have changed. The Absalom rebellion was crushed. David is coming back. And the Holy Spirit says: "And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king."

But look at him:

"And he had neither dressed his feet, nor washed his clothes, nor trimmed his beard, from the day the king departed until he came again in peace."

There was not much poor lame Mephibosheth could do, was there? But there was one thing he could do. . .



During the American civil war there was a town the Union troops had captured. The soldiers were marching into the conquered city.

Their route took them past a cottage where a little old lady was sitting on her porch, waving a Confederate flag.

"Old lady! What do you think you can do with that flag?"

"I can show whose side I'm on!"

There wasn't much poor, lame Mephibosheth could do for David.

But he did what he could.

他自言自語的說：

「我不知道大衛現在在作什麼？」

「我知道，他一定逃出城，沿著約旦逃到瑪哈念了。

**我猜得到他今晚兩腿一定酸痛得要死。**我能體會…從今起，我也不再修我的腳丫子，直到大衛能平安返回。

我想大衛今天沒辦法修鬍子了。

曠野裡沒有修面師傅的。我能體會…從今起，我也不再修鬍子了，直到大衛能平安返回。

我想大衛今天也沒法子換洗衣服了。這我能體會…從今天起，我也不再換洗衣物了，除非大衛能平安回來，換一身乾淨的衣服…唉！」

米非波設說，「告訴你，我就是要跟大衛一樣…直到他能平安回來。」

米非波設最後出現在大衛的腳前說，「我敬佩你這一路所經歷的。你真是神的使者。」聖靈敘述米非波設就寫到這兒。

He said to himself:

"I wonder what David is doing right now?"

"I know he had a forced march out of the city, across Jordan to Mahanaim.

I EXPECT HE HAS SORE FEET TONIGHT. I can enter into that . . . I won't have my sore feet dressed till David returns.

I don't expect David has been able to trim his beard today.

There are no barbers in the wilderness. I can enter into that. . .I'll let my beard grow till David comes back.

I don't expect David has been able to wash his clothes today. I can enter into that . . . I won't change my clothes till David comes back and wears clean clothes . . . Phew!"

Mephibosheth said, "I just want to be like David . . . Till he returns I want to remind you of him!"

Mephibosheth is last seen: At David's feet saying, "I worship the very ground you walk on. You are as an angel of God." The Holy Spirit leaves him there.