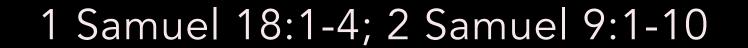
Bonded for Life

The Ancient Blood Covenant and the Faithfulness of God



Introduction

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Blood covenants obligated the two parties to demonstrate lovingkindness (hesed) one to another.

The Public Ceremony

Exchange of Outer Garments Exchange of Weapons Exchange of Token Possessions Exchange of Names Exchange of Vows and Blood Exchange of Places between Blood Exchange of Firstborn Sons Exchange of Bread and Wine

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KJV: "The soul of David was <u>knit</u> to the soul of Jonathan" (v. 1).

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Jonathan had a baby boy named Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth's mangled body is carried out to a shack in the wilderness, called Lo Debar.

Mephibosheth doesn't know that he is in covenant with David through his father Jonathan.

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2 Samuel 9:1

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness [hesed] for Jonathan's sake?"

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David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness [hesed] for Jonathan's sake?"

Ziba (David's Servant): "Yes...one is left...Mephibosheth."

2 Samuel 9:7

"Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness [hesed] for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

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2 Samuel 9:8

"What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog?"

David is saying here: "I'm going to treat you on the basis of a covenant made a long time ago. Now get up and start acting like the prince I've just made you."

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Mephibosheth becomes a new person by covenant. He can never go back to that shack in Lo Debar and all it represents.

The court jester: "Mephibosheth, you really don't belong here."

"You'll have to go take that up with David himself."

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Jesus: "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

Hebrews 10:5-7

"Sacrifice and burnt offering you did not desire, but a <u>body</u> you have prepared for me. . . . Here I am, it is written in your scroll. I have come to do your will, O God."

Hebrews 9:15

"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a <u>new</u> <u>covenant</u>, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from sin."

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Like David looking for Mephibosheth, God is searching for <u>us</u>, wanting to lavish upon us all the riches and blessings that come from being in covenant with him.

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The great exchanges of the New Covenant take place.

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Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Colossians 3:3

You died, and your life is now hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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But how can the old me really be gone if I still feel it?

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The amputee...

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The amputee...

The dead leaves...

Is there anyone still left in the human family to whom God can show kindness for Jesus' sake?

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