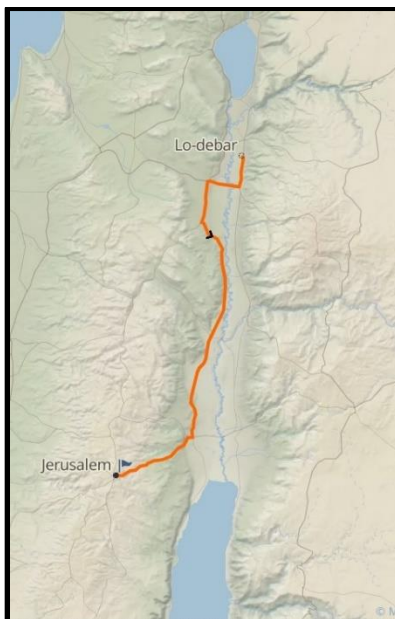


Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

David's Kindness to Mephibosheth

- David was motivated to show kindness to the remnant of the house of Saul [2 Sam 9:1].
 - Perhaps the recent military engagements had caused David to reflect on the various negative side-effects of war.
 - Widows and orphans (including those that are produced by warfare) are special objects of God's kindness and protection [Ezek 22:22-24].
 - David's love for Jonathan and the memories of their friendship gave him particular motivation to show kindness to the house of Saul.
 - The "kindness" that David intended to show was חֶסֶד (chesed) lovingkindness – a deep, steadfast love [Micah 7:18-20] which comes from God [v. 3].
- Ziba, a servant from the house of Saul, told David about Jonathan's son Mephibosheth and his whereabouts [2 Sam 9:2-4].
 - Ziba will appear two more times in David's life.
 - In the first account a grateful Ziba tells David about Mephibosheth's revolt [2 Sam 16:1-4].
 - In the second account we learn how Ziba had prospered [2 Sam 19:17].
- David had Mephibosheth brought to him from Lo-debar [2 Sam 9:5-8].
 - Mephibosheth (dispelling the shame) was born Merib-baal (Baal is my advocate) [1 Chr 8:34].
 - He was crippled in both feet [2 Sam 4:4; v. 13].
 - David told Mephibosheth of his intentions [v. 7].
 - Mephibosheth was humbled and spoke of himself with self-deprecating language [v. 8]



- David gave Ziba stewardship responsibility for Mephibosheth's estate [2 Sam 9:9-13].
 - Mephibosheth and his estate would be in the care of Ziba, his sons and servants [v. 10, 12].
 - Mephibosheth ate at David's table just as one of David's sons [v. 11].
 - Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem rather than on his estate [v. 13].