

# GRACE SO AMAZING

GRACE SO AMAZING FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
1 Sam. 18:1-3

1 Sam. 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that **the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**

2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 **Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.**

What makes for a good relationship between friends and family? A friend is a chosen correlation, a mutual fellowship of interests whereas a family is a compelled connection, which may or may not be a fellowship of mutual interests.

On Wednesday evenings our series of study is “Searching the Scriptures.” The Lord Jesus said:

Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures...they are they which testify of me.**”

This morning, we see such typology in the life of David that is a testimony of the “*Grace So Amazing*” of the Lord Jesus regarding “Friends and Family.” We begin with the friendship depicted by Jonathan and David in our text this morning:

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# I. THE TIMING OF FRIENDSHIP

- ❖ Friendships begin in mutual places of interest – neighborhood, schools, work, military, church, clubs, hobbies...
- ❖ Friendships require time spent together, accompanied with commonalities.
- ❖ David was summoned to King Saul after the confrontation and victory over Goliath.

❖ After David's meeting with Saul, Jonathan and David developed a lifelong friendship:

1 Sam. 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that **the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**

2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 **Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.**

❖ The friendship between Jonathan and David led to a “covenant” which created a commitment to protect each other and their families.

1 Sam. 20:15 But *also* **thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever**: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

16 So **Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David**, saying, Let the LORD even require *it* at the hand of David's enemies.

42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as **we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD**, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between **my seed and thy seed for ever**. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

- ❖ Their “covenant” was truly “*Grace So Amazing for Friends and Family.*”

## II. THE TESTING OF FRIENDSHIP

- ❖ Jealousy on King Saul’s part was a very serious threat to David’s life and his friendship with Jonathan.

1 Sam. 18:5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* **behaved himself wisely**: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.



6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?

9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

❖ Saul's jealousy motivated him to try to kill David twice with a javelin.

1 Sam. 18:10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.

11 **And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall *with it*. And David avoided out of his presence twice.**

❖ Saul was jealous of God's blessings upon David:

1 Sam. 18:12 And Saul was afraid of David, **because the LORD was with him**, and was departed from Saul.

❖ Saul devised a wicked plan to create more trouble for David – arrange a marriage for him:

1 Sam. 18:20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

21 And Saul said, I will give him her, **that she may be a snare to him**, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of* the twain.

1 Sam. 18:28 And **Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David**, and *that* Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and **Saul became David's enemy continually.**

1 Sam. 19:1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, **that they should kill David.**

2 **But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David**, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself:

1 Sam. 19:10 And **Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin**; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

❖ Jonathan's family was a great test for maintaining a friendship with David.

Prov. 17:17 **A friend loveth at all times**, and a brother is born for adversity.

❖ All relationships of any length will be challenged in a myriad of ways whether among friends or family.

### III. THE TRIUMPH OF FRIENDSHIP AND FAMILY

- ❖ Regardless of the timing, and in spite of the testing, friendship and family are worth working through the challenges.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ “**is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.**”

Prov. 18:24 **A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.**

Prov. 27:9 Ointment and perfume **rejoice the heart:**  
***so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty***  
***counsel.***

17 Iron sharpeneth iron; **so a man sharpeneth the**  
**countenance of his friend.**

Prov. 27:10 **Thine own friend, and thy father's**  
**friend, forsake not;** neither go into thy brother's  
house in the day of thy calamity: *for better is a*  
neighbour *that is near* than a brother far off.

- ❖ The commitment of David's loyalty to his friend Jonathan is seen several years after the making of their covenant.

- ❖ Jonathan and Saul were killed in battle and David became king.
- ❖ A few years later, David sought any of Jonathan's descendants and found a son and grandson:

2 Sam. 4:4 **And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was lame of his feet***. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. **And his name was Mephibosheth.**



2 Sam. 9:1 And **David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?**

2 And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name *was* Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, *Art thou Ziba?* And he said, Thy servant *is he*.

3 And the king said, *Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?* And Ziba said unto the king, **Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.**

4 And the king said unto him, *Where is he?* And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

2 Sam. 9:12 And **Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha**. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants unto Mephibosheth.

- ❖ David's display of love and loyalty toward Jonathan's family is a wonderful display of *Grace So Amazing*.

2 Sam. 9:5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

7 And David said unto him, **Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake,** and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

8 And he bowed himself, and said, **What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?**

- ❖ David had Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, brought to him.
- ❖ Mephibosheth lived in Lodebar, which means "pastureless."

**Original Word:** לֹא דֶבַר **Transliteration:** Lo Debar;

**Definition:** "pastureless", a place in Gilead

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3810.htm>

- ❖ Mephibosheth had not done anything to earn this kindness and blessing from David.

Rom. 5:6 For **when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

2 Sam. 9:11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. **As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.**

2 Sam. 9:13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for **he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.**

## Summary

The triumph of *Friends and Family* is a wonderful testimony of kindness that is the epitome of *Grace So Amazing*.

The Hebrew word used in this passage is *chesed* – equivalent to “*grace*.”

**Original Word:** חֶסֶד **Transliteration:** checed

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2617.htm>

1 Sam. 20:15 But *also* **thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever**: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

2 Sam. 9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, **that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake**? ...

3 And the king said, *Is* there not yet any of the house of Saul, **that I may shew the kindness of God unto him**? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *which is* lame on *his* feet. .

7 And David said unto him, **Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake**, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

**Original Word:** טוֹן **Transliteration:** checed

**Definition:** goodness, kindness

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2617.htm>

- ❖ Mephibosheth was crippled by a fall. We were crippled by Adam's fall.
- ❖ Mephibosheth was heir to a kingdom but lost his inheritance. God created man to rule and reign upon earth, but we lost our inheritance.
- ❖ He couldn't come to David; he had to be found. God sought us, just as David sought him.



- ❖ Before David rescued him, he was as good as dead (2 Sam. 9:8). Before Jesus, we were under the sentence of death: “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:1).
- ❖ He hated and feared David. Lost mankind hates and fears God.
- ❖ He was deceived, thinking David was his enemy when David was really his friend. Before we’re saved, we think the same way about God.
- ❖ By God’s *Grace So Amazing*, saved sinners may have fellowship at “the King’s Table.”

## Conclusion

Eph 2:4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might **shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:***

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

10 For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.