

Biographical Bible Study

Mary: Godly and Obedient Woman

Mary

Μαρία, Μαριάμ Maria Mariam in hebrew

References & Observations

References	Key Thoughts & Context
(Luk 1:28) And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, <i>thou that art</i> highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed <i>art</i> thou among women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The Gabriel appeared to Mary in Nazareth and gave here a very interesting salutation. Gabriel told Mary that she is highly favored and that Lord is with her and she is blessed among women. × (O) Mary is highly favored, and blessed among women but it did not equate her to God. She is still a person.
(Luk 1:29) And when she saw <i>him</i> , she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.	Mary was surprised by the angel's salutation. She did not understand what that meant.
(Luk 1:30) And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The angel comforted Mary and reiterated that Mary found favor with God. × Mary found favor with God but she is not greater than Jesus
(Luk 1:31) And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.	The when the angel announced to Mary about Jesus
(Luk 1:34) Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Mary indicates that she is a virgin × Mary asked a practical question here. She questioned how this could happen? × Mary's response was slightly different from that of Zecharias: While he doubted the certainty of Gabriel's message, Mary asked a more practical question × After Gabriel told her of God's plan Mary asked a practical.
(Luk 1:35) And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God.	Here, the angel answers Mary's question. Mary has been told about who Jesus is.
Luk 1:38 (KJV) And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (NASB) And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × After initial surprise and questioning attitude, Mary showed pure submission to the will of God. She was submissive and believed the word of God (Luke 1:45) × (K) Mary is obedient to God

References	Key Thoughts & Context
	Jerusalem x Mary continues to be faithful to Jesus
(Isa 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.	Prophecies concerning Mary, a virgin.
(Mat 12:46) While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. (Mar 3:31) And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. (Mat 13:55 ASV) Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joseph, and Simon, and Judas?	Mary had children in addition to Jesus. This is clearly opposite to the some beliefs that Mary remained a virgin

Brief Summary of Mary's Life

Mary is a godly woman from the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David. She is a virgin betrothed to a godly man named Joseph. She was a humble person and was surprised by the angel Gabriel's visit. After being told about God's plan, Mary was very submissive to the will of God. Mary along with Joseph raised Jesus with love and care. Throughout Jesus' life, Mary followed Him. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension Mary continued to follow Jesus thru her old age.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths: Mary was humble, submissive to the will of God., pure (virgin), simple

Weaknesses: Practical/unbelief, impatient (during the wedding at Cana)

Key Verse

(NASB) And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Key Thought of Mary's Life

Mary a godly woman, was submissive to God's will. She believed in God even though she doesn't understand it all.

Application

Be obedient to God. You don't need to understand everything just trust in God and follow him.

Compare and Contrast

Lot's Wife is a good person to compare and contrast Mary with. Lot's wife loved luxury and was not obedient to God at all.

Biographical Study- Enoch

Step One- References

Gen. 5:18-24 Enoch was the Son of Jared, father of Methuselah, walked with God, and didn't die.

- 18 Enoch's father Jared is.
- 19 Jared had other sons and Daughters
- 20 Jared died
- 21 Enoch is the Father of Methuselah
- 22 Enoch walked with God and had other children
- 23 Enoch lived 365 years
- 24 God took him

1st Chronicles 1:3 Enoch was in the direct line of Abraham.

Luke 3:37 Enoch is in the line of Christ.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch didn't die, he pleased God
6 It's impossible to please God without faith

Jude 14 Enoch predicted the Lord's second coming
15 (The Lord's second coming with His saints to judge)

Step 2- Observations

Gen. 5:18-24

Observations

- Enoch means "dedicated"
- Enoch was part of the "Godly line"
- Enoch's father was the second oldest man (Jared- 962) , while his son was the oldest (Methuselah- 969).
- Enoch had brothers and sisters.
- Enoch was the first born
- Enoch had his 1st child, Methuselah, when he was 65
- Enoch had other sons and daughters
- Enoch walked with God for 300 years after he had Methuselah
- God took Enoch
- Enoch most likely lived in the Middle east. (Considering Adam would of been in Mesopotamia)

Applications

I need to walk with God as Enoch did.

favor angels, who are often seen in judgment action. While believers will have a role of judging during the Lord's earthly kingdom (see note on 1 Cor. 6:2) and will return when Christ comes to judge (Rev. 19:14), angels are the executioners of God at the second coming of Christ (see Matt. 13:39-41, 49, 50; 24:29-31; 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7-10). - MacArthur

- Enoch's prophecy seems to be an answer to what will happen to the apostates predicted in 2nd Pet. 3:3.

Step 3- Sketch

Enoch was the son of Jared, and 7 generations down from Adam. He was the first born of other brothers and sisters living in a pre-deluvian world. He became the father of Methuselah when he was 65 and then went on to have more sons and daughters during his 300 year period of walking with God. At the end of this period Enoch avoided death by faith when God took him.

Enoch is important to both Israel and Church history since he is in the direct line of such people as Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and considering he is part of the godly line. Enoch is also important to Christians because of his example in the "Hall of Faith". He believed that God was a re-warmer of those who seek Him.

Enoch (who's name means dedicated) also prophesied concerning the apostates that infiltrated the early church. (2nd Pet. 3:3, Jude)

Step 4- Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths- He walked with God and by faith pleased Him.

Weaknesses- None that are known.

Step 5- Key Verse

Heb. 11:5 "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God"

Enoch's faith enabled him to be "taken up" by God. His life exhibited a walk of faith with His Creator even being used of God to prophecy.

Step 6- Key Thought

Enoch walked in a faithful manner that was pleasing to God.

Step 7- Application

I need to walk with faith similar to that of Enoch's. I haven't been walking with God lately in many ways. I find the Bible to be something more to exercise my personal logic on in order to discover its rational truths, instead of a life changing way to be like Christ. I need to start walking

Step 11- Comparison

Comparing Enoch with Cain we can see a big difference. In the book of Jude, Cain is used to describe the apostates that were under Enoch's judgmental prophecy. Cain didn't have the faith to even offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Instead of walking *with* God, Cain walked away from God not listening to God's council toward his own sin. A relationship with God was avoided by Cain. When God questioned Cain concerning his brother's death, Cain tried to avoid the question in a repulsive manner. Enoch on the other hand though walked with God instead of away from Him. We find that his faith was incredible enough to not even die. While Cain's faith was in himself, Enoch's was in the Lord.

Biographical Method of Bible Study

Joshua - The Spiritual General

Step One & Two: References and Observations

Meet Joshua

Numbers 11:28 - Son of Nun. The servant of Moses from his youth. He was of the tribe of Ephraim (line of Joseph) (Num. 13:8)

Age? Served Moses from youth? He was 110 when he died (Josh. 24:29). 40 years in wilderness with Moses. 7 years to conquer Canaan (Caleb: $85-40=45$. $45-38=7$). Served after conquering of Canaan 17 years according to Josephus. Thus was $110-17-7-40=45$ at beginning of Exodus. When did he serve Moses in his youth? Yet in Exod. 33:11 he is called a "young man." Speculation. He may have been younger at the start of the Exodus and Josephus' account is wrong.

Exodus 17:9f. Moses has him fight against Amalek. (First year of Exodus). This is first Biblical mention of Joshua and here he is serving as a general. Possibly Joshua had military training in Egypt. Foreigners did serve in Egypt's military. Josephus believed that Moses had at one time lead an Egyptian army against the Ethiopians.

Exodus 24:13 - Joshua is Moses' personal servant. Went up onto Mountain of God with Moses - at least part of the distance. After Moses received instructions from God on the Mountain (Ex. 25-31), he is with Joshua as he is coming down (Ex. 32:15-17).

Exodus 33:11. Joshua is faithful to Moses. Stands at the tent of meeting ready to serve.

Numbers 11:28. Joshua is defensive of Moses and does not want honor taken away from him. He learns important lesson about true spirituality here. It is God's glory that is important, not man's.

Numbers 13:8,16 - Joshua chooses as representative of Ephraim to spy out the land.

Numbers 14:6-10 - Joshua and Caleb distressed at the people for following the bad report of the other spies. They give a good report and encourage people to trust the Lord. Notice Joshua's own faith in God is saying this.

Numbers 14:30 (26:65; 32:12) - Only Joshua and Caleb spared from the curse God placed on their generation. They had "followed the Lord fully" (32:12), and only Joshua & Caleb remained alive of the 12 spies. The others were killed by a plague from the Lord (Num. 14:36-38)

Numbers 27:15-18,22. Joshua chosen by God to succeed Moses.

Numbers 34:17 - Joshua & Eleazer were appointed to divide up the land.

Deut. 3:21, 28 - Joshua affirmed by Moses before the people as their leader. - also 31:3,7,14,23. Officially commissioned in 31:23.

Deut 34:9 - Moses died and Joshua takes charge. He "was filled with the spirit of wisdom"

Joshua 1:1-9. The Lord's charge to Joshua. Note especially 7-9.

Joshua 2 - he sends out two spies

Joshua 3 - Israel crosses the Jordan. The Lord would begin to exalt Joshua (vs. 7f) (and he was exalted 4:14). The miracle of crossing the Jordan river - the miracle done to exalt Joshua, but more importantly to give confidence in the Lord's promises concerning conquering the land - v 10.

Joshua 4. Memorial stones set up so children would be taught about the Lord (esp. 6,7 & 21-24).

Joshua 5 - Circumcision (rendering the army vulnerable before the enemy in order to keep God's commandments). Joshua meets angel of the Lord 13-15. Joshua shows humility before the angel

Joshua 6. Conquest of Jericho. A non-military way to conquer a city. The Lord was with Joshua - vs. 27.

Joshua 7. Defeat at Ai. 1) Joshua too cocky - vs. 3,4. 2) Joshua humbles himself before the Lord - 6. Notice his concern for God's name in his prayer in verse 9. Joshua followed the Lord's command concerning their sin (vs. 10f, 16). Glory given to God in confession (vs. 19).

Joshua 8. Conquest of Ai - Good military strategy. Celebrated by reading the law (34,35).

Joshua 9. Gibeonites fool Joshua because he did not consult with the Lord (14). Yet they keep their word. Notice vs. 24 - the fear of the Lord was on the Gibeonites which is why they did what they did.

Joshua 10. Five kings attack Gibeon. Joshua comes to rescue. Joshua uses good military tactics (vs. 9), but it is the Lord that wins the battle (10,11). Vs. 12f, at Joshua's request the Lord even extends the day. Joshua conquers the five kings, then all of Southern Palestine because he was obedient to the Lord (40) and the Lord fought for Israel (42).

Joshua 11 - Northern Palestine conquered. Vs. 15 - Joshua obeyed the Lord.

Joshua 12 - accounting of the kings conquered
 Joshua 13 - division of Canaan.
 Joshua 14 - Caleb
 Joshua 15-21. The land divided
 Joshua 22 - Crises of the Altar.

Joshua 23 - His farewell address. It is the Lord that has done the fighting (vs. 3). He will do the same for what remains (vs. 5). He charges them (6-8). He warns them (11-13). The Lord has fulfilled his promises (14).

Joshua 24 - a review of Israel's history (1-13). God's charge to Israel (14-15). The people's answer (16-18). Joshua's warning 19f. Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord dies - vs. 29.

Joshua 24:15 - as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Judges 2:7 - the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua and the elders that survived Joshua. He had an effect on his generation and that which followed.

His spirituality seen in

- 1) submission to the Lord regardless of what it may appear to the wisdom of men.
- 2) faithfulness to responsibilities given
- 3) desire for God's glory
- 4) desire for others to serve the Lord
- 5) humility

Step Two: A Sketch of Joshua's life.

Joshua was the Son of Nun of the tribe of Ephraim. He served Moses from his youth. He is first mentioned after the Exodus and serves as a military general for Israel when he is fighting against Amalek.

Through most of the Exodus journey he faithfully serves Moses. Among the more important events/aspects of his life during this time are: Going part of the distance of the Mountain of God when Moses receives God's instructions, including the Ten Commandments. He stands ready at the Tent of Meeting. He is chosen as the representative of Ephraim to spy out the land, and only he and Caleb give a positive report and advocate conquering the land according to God's promises. He is eventually chosen to succeed Moses as the leader of the people. He and Eleazar are chosen to divide up the promised land among the 12 tribes of Israel.

Joshua leads the people after Moses' death in the conquering of the Promised Land. Among the more important events/aspects of this period of his life: He leads Israel across the Jordan River. He circumcises all the males of Israel in preparation for conquering the land. He meets the Angel of the Lord. He conquers Jericho according to God's design. He is defeated at Ai, but learns his lesson and conquers it. He is tricked by the Gibeonites. He conquers the five

kings of Southern Palestine all in one day, a day made extra long by the Lord. He conquers Northern Palestine and divides up the land. He warned and charged the people to follow the Lord in his "farewell address." The nation served the Lord all the days of Joshua and the elders that survived him.

Step Four - Strengths and Weakness

Strengths: Joshua proved faithful in serving the Lord. He would willingly stand alone if needed because of His strong faith in God. He would submit himself to the Lord regardless of other people might think or say. He was humble himself. He desired God to be glorified. He was courageous. He exhibited good leadership skills. He desired for others to serve the Lord and encouraged them to do so.

Weaknesses: He did not always check things out with the Lord before taking action. This led to the defeat at Ai and being deceived by the Gibeonites.

Step Five - Key Verse

Joshua 24:15 (NASB) "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua warned and challenged others about serving the Lord, and Himself was absolutely committed to doing so regardless of what anyone else did.

Step Six - Key Thought

Joshua believed God and was committed to serving the Lord regardless of what anyone else thought or did.

Step Seven - Application

Joshua is an excellent example to follow in believing God and courageously following Him regardless of what anyone else thinks or says. There are many times I have backed off because of fear of what others would think or do. The life of Joshua is a good encouragement to stand fearlessly even if it must be alone. He is also a good example of leadership. The effect of his life being seen that the nation continued to follow the Lord as long as the other leaders that had served under Joshua were alive. I would like to have the same impact from my own life.

JOSHAVIAH jōsh'ā vī'ā (יושׁוּיָהוּ). Son of Elnaam, one of David's Mighty Men known as the "Thirty" (1 Chron 11:46).

JOSEB-BASSHEBETH. See JASHOBEAM.

JOSHIBIAH jōsh'ā bī'ā (יושׁבִּיָּה). KJV JOSIBIAH, jos'ī bī'e. A Simeonite chief (1 Chron 4:35).

JOSHUA jōsh'ōō (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, יהושוע, LXX Ἰησοῦς, *Yahweh is salvation*).

Joshua son of Nun. Alternately: **HOSHEA** hō she'ā (הוֹשִׁעַ, *salvation*, Num 13:8, 16 RSV; Deut 32:44); **OSHEA** ō she'ā (Num 13:8, 16 KJV); **JEHOSHUA** jē hōsh'ōō (יהושוע, Num 13:16); **JESUS** (Ἰησοῦς, Acts 7:45 and Heb 4:8 KJV). The commander of the Israelites during the conquest of Canaan. (See JOSHUA, BOOK OF.)

1. Family. The son of Nun, he belonged to the tribe of Ephraim (Num 13:8 RSV). He settled in Tinnath-serah (Josh 19:50; Timnath-heres, Judg 2:9) in the hill country of Ephraim, and was buried there (Josh 24:30).

2. Training and experience. As Bezaleel and Oholiab (Exod 31:1-6) undoubtedly had received training as slaves in the arts and crafts of Egypt, and as Josephus imagines that Moses led an Egypt. army against the Ethiopians (Jos. Antiq. II. x. 1, 2), it is likely that Joshua had served in Pharaoh's army before the Exodus. Foreigners were common in the army of Egypt. Moses considered him sufficiently battle-tested to appoint him leader of the Israelite defense against the attack of the Amalekites at Rephidim (Exod 17:8-16). Since Joshua was apparently known to Moses, he may already have been in charge of organizing the undisciplined crowd of slaves who had escaped from Egypt into orderly marching columns.

Joshua served as personal minister to Moses when the latter was on Mount Sinai receiving the law (24:13; 32:17). Joshua was in attendance whenever the Lord would speak to Moses in the tent of meeting outside the camp (33:11). From Moses he learned the value of the anointing of God's Spirit when he would have forbidden certain elders to prophesy (Num 11:27-29).

His selection as one of the twelve spies gave Joshua the opportunity to learn the nature of the Canaanites and the topography of the land at first hand. This information became invaluable when his time came to plan the campaigns to conquer Canaan. Furthermore, he grew in strength of character as he and Caleb stood against the majority with their minority report of the reconnaissance (14:6-9). They called upon the community of Israel to rise up in faith and expect Yahweh to give them the excellent land to the N. Caleb and Joshua were spared when the ten

who had incited the Israelites to grumble against Yahweh by disparaging the land were struck dead (14:30, 36-38). Of the generation numbered at the beginning of the wilderness journey only Joshua and Caleb followed the Lord faithfully and remained alive to be registered at the end of the forty year period (26:65; 32:12; Deut 1:34-40).

3. Commission. When Moses was told that he must die instead of being allowed to lead the Israelites into Canaan, the lawgiver asked God to give the community of Yahweh a new shepherd (Num 27:12-17). Telling Moses to select Joshua, a man indwelt by the Spirit, the Lord replied: "You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey" (27:20). Moses formally ordained Joshua in the presence of Eleazar the priest and the whole community (Num 27:21-23; Deut 3:21-28), and imparted to him the spirit of wisdom by the laying on of hands (Deut 34:9). Later, Moses commanded Joshua before the entire nation to be strong and to lead Israel across the Jordan in order to possess the land promised to the patriarchs (Deut 31:3, 7, 8). Then the two presented themselves at the door of the Tabernacle. There Joshua received the divine commission or charge from God (31:14, 15, 23). After Moses' death the Lord graciously repeated this commission to Joshua privately and enlarged upon it, to prepare him for the overwhelming task lying ahead (Josh 1:1-9).

4. Leadership qualities. Several outstanding characteristics enabled Joshua to perform the responsibilities committed to him. First, he was humble enough to recognize that he was *not* the gifted and educated man that Moses was. Joshua accepted himself and thus leaned all the more heavily upon the Lord in his comparative ordinariness. He was not too big for God to use; hence God could exalt him (3:7; 4:14). Second, he was a man of strong faith and faithful to his calling. When the divine Commander-in-chief appeared in theophany to him as he scouted the Jericho defenses, Joshua was quick to bow in worship (5:13-15) and to receive orders how to capture the enemy bastion (6:2-5). Even though the daily encirclement with trumpets blowing might seem militarily stupid, and be subjected to the ridicule of the defenders, Joshua obeyed implicitly. He cried to God in repentance for his nation after the Ai debacle (Josh 7:2-5). At the foot of Mount Ebal he put worship and covenant before further war and conquest (8:30-35). At Gibeon he prayed for supernatural assistance, and God answered with a terrifying hailstorm (10:10-14). Third, he saturated his mind and heart with the word of God, meditating therein day and night. Thus the people had confidence to execute his decisions (see 1:13-18; 8:30-35; 11:12, 15; 14:1-5), and he

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could appeal to them at his life's end to continue adhering to the law of Moses (23:6).

Fourth, he displayed sound military strategy. He established his base of operations at Gilgal with its easy access to the Trans-Jordan tribes as a source of supplies and in its position guarding two trade routes up into the central highlands. By capturing Ai and silencing Bethel (8:17; 12:16) he took the heart of Canaan first, and cut the land in two. He was able to campaign separately against the southern and the northern kings. His military policy was a combination of surprise and speed, of catching his enemies in the open and destroying their troops, since his own desert army was untrained in siege operations. Israel's six-day war of June, 1967, illustrates the result of high morale and incentive, brilliant leadership, and swift attack against numerically superior but terror-stricken enemies.

Fifth, Joshua was an able administrator in peace as well as in war. His keen geographic judgment enabled him to draw up boundaries for the tribal allotments that were sensible and not provocative of inter-tribal wars. He did make mistakes, as LaSor points out (pp. 75f.), by allowing the crafty Gibeonites to keep their territory, by not capturing Jerusalem from the Jebusites, and by failing to dispossess the small but growing enclaves of early Philistines. These factions divided the country across the middle, so that after Solomon's death the nation split apart forming two kingdoms. Some would criticize Joshua for failing to pick and train a successor; on the other hand, after the partitioning of the land God meant that each tribe should consolidate its own territory as Caleb did at Hebron.

5. Typical significance. As seen in the similarity of their names, Joshua is a type of Christ as our conquering commander. Joshua was an agent both of grace (e.g., in the case of Rahab) and of damnation in the holy war of Yahweh against the seven wicked nations in the Promised Land, just as Jesus is both Savior and Judge of all men, who metes out death as well as life. "Everything in Canaan was put into the hands of Joshua as trustee for the people. It was his responsibility to divide and assign the land as each tribe came to claim its portion from him" (Redpath, p. 22). Even so each believer who desires to walk in the realm of victory and full salvation must claim the spiritual blessings and authority and power that are his rightful inheritance in Christ. We may rest from personal struggle because every spiritual foe that we face already has been defeated by our Joshua (Heb 3:12-4:8).

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(1959), 69-77; J. L. Kelso, "Joshua, Whose Name Means Jesus," *Archaeology and Our Old Testament Contemporaries* (1966), 47, 48.

J. REA

JOSHUA, BOOK OF. The sixth book of the OT, and the first book of the Prophets (נביאים), the second great division of the Heb. canon. It is named after Joshua (q.v.), the leader of the Israelites during their invasion and settlement by tribes in the Promised Land.

A. Background. The events set forth in the Book of Joshua follow immediately after those of the lifetime of Moses. The cultural and historical setting for the conquest of Pal. is similar to that of the Exodus and wilderness journey. The data for determining this background are supplied by the Biblical records and archeological research. The patriarchs sojourned in Canaan during what archeologists call the Middle Bronze Age (2100-1550 B.C.). This was a time of change with the influx of new peoples such as the Amorites. In the 19th and following centuries strongly-fortified Hyksos cities began to dot the land. Abraham arrived at Shechem and Bethel (Gen 12) c. 2000 B.C. during the two centuries when settlements existed in the Negeb (2100-1900) to sustain the caravan routes to Egypt (Gen 12: 9; 13:1-3; 20:1; 24:62). Genesis 14 suggests a time after the collapse of the Sumer. Ur III dynasty (2113-1991) but before the strong first dynasty of Babylon under Hammurabi (1792-1750), when several kings in Mesopotamia might well have formed a coalition for mutual assistance to raid the asphalt pits and copper mines S of the Dead Sea.

Joseph prob. rose to power as vizier of Egypt during that country's illustrious twelfth dynasty (1991-1786). It is known that Pharaoh Sesostri III (1878-1843) broke the power of the landed nobility, "reducing the monarchs to the status of servants of the crown and doing away with their feudal states" (W. C. Hayes, *The Sceptre of Egypt*, I [1953], 196). The explanation of how he accomplished this may possibly be found in Genesis 47:13-26, the account of Joseph's buying up the fields of Egypt for Pharaoh. The cultural milieu of the Joseph narratives is thoroughly Egypt., and the international political situation seems peaceful enough throughout the land, unbroken by the later strife caused by the foreign Hyksos rule in the Delta of Egypt (1730-1570). The seat of government remained in the Memphis area just S of Cairo throughout the twelfth and thirteenth dynasties. The region of Goshen would have been a comfortable distance from the palace (Gen 46:28-34).

The new king who rose against (*qām 'al*) Egypt and "who did not know Joseph" (Exod 1:8), i.e. who refused to recognize Joseph's contribution to Egypt's history, was likely a Hyksos ruler in the Nile Delta region. If the Hyksos afflicted instead of favored the Is-

raelites, forcing Raamses (the H Avaris or Tanis, with the site of which would explain why when native Egypt before 1550 B.C.

The Pharaohs (1567-1320) evident Israelites until Sinai, c. 1445 B.C. began to build The Exodus was the reign of Amenhotep the long reign (1483-1450), the whom Moses fled master (Exod 2:1 kings was at Thebes had subsidiary cities (near Cairo Pharaoh could be of the plagues. years after Israel (Exod 12:40), o texts indicate, af Canaan and in Egypt and flocks from the eighteenth d Joshua would have dan c. 1405 B.C. Bronze I Age (1 tribal allotments, 1380, or even last lasted over 300 king c. 1040 B.C. date view of the

An alternate view the Hyksos period the reign of Pharaoh even of his successor latter mentioning makes any later improbable. The on the appearance Exodus 1:11, on abate towns and eologists claim v cent. B.C., and o of Canaanite cities hold this late d 480 years of 1 K number for two lasting forty year about twenty-five would be only 30 gan his Temple, figure of 300 ye. Heshbon to his o be taken literally, perhaps of oppres the Judges must drastically overlap

Even more serious of Scripture,

MEPHIBOSHETH (mē-fib'ō- shēth)

REFERENCES

2 Sam 4:4	5 yrs. old; lame feet because his nurse dropped him fleeing after hearing the news of Saul & Jonathan's death
2 Sam 9:1-12	David restores land to Mephibosheth("M"); how old was M? Here, we already know M is the father of Mica(v.12)
2 Sam 16:1-4	Ziba the servant assigned to M by David deceitfully obtains M's inheritance
2 Sam 19:24-30	M meets King David & tells him about Ziba's betrayal
2 Sam 21:7	David spares M as Saul's remaining sons are killed because Saul had put the Gibeonites to death
1 Chron 8:34	M is the son of Jonathan of the tribe of Benjamin; referred to as Merib-Baal
1 Chron 9:40	lineage of Saul described; M again referred to as Merib-Baal

CHARACTER

M feared for his life(2 Sam 9: 1-9)

He was humble even after being slandered by Ziba(2 Sam 19:24-30)

SUMMARY OF HIS LIFE

Son of Jonathan. Jonathan was the oldest son of Saul, the first king of Israel(1 Sam14:49) His name also appears as Merib-Baal(1 Chron 8:34; 9:40). Was 5 years old when his father dies fighting alongside his father Saul against the Philistines. Rendered lame in both feet. His nurse dropped him as they fled upon hearing the news of Saul & Jonathan's death at Mt. Gilboa.

David succeeded Saul as Israel's next king. He was best friends with M's father Jonathan. On his accession to the throne, M was called back to Jerusalem, given his father's inheritance and permitted to eat at the king's table for the rest of his life. Ziba was given to him to be his servant. Ziba betrayed M and represented him as a traitor(2 Sam 16: 1-4), but David received him in a friendly manner(2 Sam 19: 24-30). This all occurred at a time when David's son, Absalom, was engaged in taking away the throne from him.

M was the father of Mica.

STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

He was humble and submissive.

He was the son of a great and devoted man, Jonathan.

He was loyal to David even though slandered by Ziba.

He did not seek revenge against Ziba.

He was physically lame.

He was dependent on others for his welfare because of his infirmity.

KEY VERSE

2 Sam 9:11 “Mephibosheth ate at David’s table like one of the king’s sons.”

KEY THOUGHT

M was the lame son of Jonathan, David’s closest friend. He became the beneficiary of David’s kindness following Jonathan’s death fighting for Israel even though David did not know him personally. David continued his kindness even after Ziba falsely accused M as a traitor. David believed M’s explanation and version. M enjoyed a favored status even though he had not earned or deserved it.

APPLICATION

Even though Saul, Mephibosheth’s grandfather, time and time again tried to kill David (the jealousy begins @ 1 Sam 18 after David kills Goliath), mercy followed him because of the kindness David showed him based upon his relationship with Jonathan, M’s father.

Here he is, a virtual stranger to David. It would have been no moment for David to have him executed out of revenge. Rather, love and mercy, the same traits God has for me, was what David displayed. M had nothing to offer King David, just like I have nothing to offer the Lord. Yet, because of his relationship with M’s father, Jonathan, David welcomed M and allowed him to eat at his table----- a great honor. The Lord God, out of His relationship with his blessed Son, has allowed me to be treated as His heir because of His grace towards me. David showed forbearance with M just as God has faithfully shown forbearance with me. I should display the same traits in all my relationships to honor the King I serve.