

Lifted Up to Heavenly Places 11-13-16 AM

Ephesians 2:4-6 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

In 2 Samuel 7, we read about David seeking out Jonathan's last surviving heir and giving him a place at his table. When David brought Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, to him, Mephibosheth was scared. We can surmise why, being a descendant of an unpopular king summoned before the king who defeated him. As well, Mephibosheth was lame in both feet, and the saying of the day was that the lame and blind are hated by David (2 Samuel 5:8). Yet when he was brought before David, David said that his purpose was to elevate Mephibosheth to the king's table, to an equal station as the king's sons. At this table his lameness was hidden beneath it, so that his fault was covered up. He was at the table not because of his own merit, but based on the merit of another man, his father Jonathan.

Of course, it becomes clear that this is an allegory (or perhaps even a fore-shadow) of our elevation in Christ. In Ephesians 2:4-6 we are told that we have been lifted up and seated in a heavenly place. Understand that the term "heaven" does not refer to the dwelling place of God, but to a spiritual condition. This is important, as many times the term heaven is used to describe a spiritual situation (consider the battle in heaven in Revelation 12, or the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 4:17 and John 18:36) and is misunderstood to be a description of the heaven that is the dwelling place of God.

A similar statement is made in Colossians 1:12-14. There we are told that we have been transferred to the Kingdom of Christ from the domain (think "home") of darkness. Again, it described the idea of a spiritual transfer that parallels Mephibosheth's physical move. This is the place where our past is of no matter, and our spiritual lameness has been removed.

Yet again in 2 Peter 1:1-4 we are told that we have been changed in a spiritual way. Here Peter tells us that we have been moved by Grace (the unmerited favor of God, based on the merit of another) and have become partakers of the divine nature. Like Mephibosheth is a partaker of the table of the king by grace, we too have this access.

Finally, we see this reference in Revelation 20:4-6 and the language of John. Revelation 20:1-3 speaks to the victory of Christ over Satan. Then we are told that we have been given thrones (seats of authority) to be seated and reign with Christ. We are heirs of the kingdom in this position.

It is important we see that the language of the New Testament is made in allegory in Mephibosheth. Later in time, Mephibosheth was accused of rebelling against David. While it seems that the accusation was untrue (and perhaps Mephibosheth was not punished), the potential for losing his position was very real. Since we are now at the King's table, we must behave in a new worthy manner. Remember, this seat at the table by Grace only came because we responded to His call. Our place at this table is ours as long as we remain committed to being heirs by our conduct.