

Who was the Father of Mephibosheth?

2 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

And David said to him (Mephibosheth), "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of **your father**¹ Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of **Saul your father**,¹ and you shall eat at my table always."

¹ Second Samuel 7:9 is a good illustration of the meaning of the Hebrew word 'ab . It can mean both "father," "grandfather," or "ancestor." From the story of Meshiboseth we know that his father was Jonathan and his grandfather Saul. For a full discussion of the word 'ab, see Helmer Ringgren, "'ab," *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament* , 1:1-19.