

1 Samuel 16

King James Version (KJV)

(Chapters 16 to 31 - The decline of Saul and the rise of David)

16 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. (God is telling Samuel to smarten up. God is in charge; not Samuel)

²And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. (Saul turned out to be a self-serving egomaniac; willing to murder a prophet in order to remain in power. He held on to the kingship, despite God having rejected him)

³And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee. (God will show Samuel who will be the next king)

⁴And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? (Saul may be king, but Samuel is still judge over Israel)

⁵And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

⁶And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him. (Eliab was tall & handsome. He may have been a choice in man's eyes; but not in Gods eyes. God knows what is in our hearts; man doesn't)

NOTE: (People still do that today. We tend to judge people by the way that they look. Looking good in the eyes of others is a gift from God. It does not make that person any better than anyone else. In fact, looking good can feed a person's ego; and make him or her proud, arrogant and self righteous)

⁷But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward

appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. (Don't judge by a man's looks. God judges people by what is in their heart and mind)

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

⁹Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. (Shammah is also called Shimmah or Shimiah in 1Chronicles-2:13, 2Samuel-13:3)

¹⁰Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

¹¹And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. (Saul lost his asses; David kept his sheep)

(David <a shepherd> was a type for Jesus throughout the Bible)

(Samuel waited for David to arrive before they sat down for the sacrificial meal)

1Chronicles-2:15 (David is listed as the 7th son of Jesse. Here, he is listed as the 8th. It may have been that one of his older brothers died young; before he had any children, after this verse was written)

¹²And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. (David was chosen by God to be the next king)

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (If Saul found out that Samuel anointed David as king, he would have killed both of them. God probably wants David to lay low for a while until Saul is gone)

(The Spirit of the LORD came upon David – When this happened to people, they became very courageous. David will later rely on that courage when he faces Goliath in battle)

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. (Saul's own sins caused this to happen. He did it to himself by disobeying God. He should have stepped down when Samuel told him that God had rejected him as king)

¹⁵ And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. (God = El-o-heem <in the Hebrew> – God the creator) (His servants noticed a difference in Saul)

(When the Holy Spirit leaves a person, they are wide open for an evil spirit to enter into them) Matthew-12:43-45

¹⁶ Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. (They thought that hearing music would soothe Saul. This was a common treatment for people who had mental issues in the ancient world)

(The expression – “music soothes the savage beast” – is relevant)

¹⁷ And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. (Saul must have known that he was having problems, because he agreed with his advisers)

¹⁸ Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. (David had the Spirit of God upon him at this time)

¹⁹ Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. (God warned Israel that a man king will take your sons and put them into his service. The people refused to listen) 1Samuel-8:16

²⁰ And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. (God is putting David in Saul's court, so that he can learn how the royal court functions. It was customary to send a gift when visiting a king)

²¹ And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. (Saul immediately took a

liking to David; probably because he could sense the Spirit of God within David. The armor bearer was a most trusted servant to a king)

²² And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. (God warned them – a man king will take your sons and your daughters to himself as soldiers and servants. It would have been “unwise” for Jesse to refuse the king. So now, he lost his youngest son to the king)

²³ And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. (Evil spirits cannot stand in the presence of the Holy Spirit of God, which was upon David. It was that, and not the music, that soothed Saul)