

## **David Chosen to Be the Next King – 1 Samuel 16:1-23**

### **Introduction:**

Israel's first king was a great disappointment. Though he seemed to be able to win battles against the enemies of Israel, he kept losing the spiritual battles. Saul was determined to prove his worth by doing things his way. Meanwhile God was looking for someone who knew how to submit and obey.

Samuel, the high priest and prophet of Israel opposed the idea of a king from the start, yet when God said to anoint a king, he did just that. It was Samuel that announced God's choice of Saul, and it was Samuel who anointed him as king. It was also Samuel who had informed Saul that he had lost the throne because of his lack of respect for God. Despite Saul's foolishness, Samuel was attached to this man.

Now it was time to move on, to anoint a new king. Samuel is sent to Bethlehem, to the family of Jesse, and one of his sons would be the next king. Samuel is not told which son would be king, so he must wait for God to point him out. The first king was good looking and tall. What should Samuel look for this time? What makes for a good king? This chapter helps answer that question.

### **Gather the Family – 1 Samuel 16:1-5**

1. What does God want Samuel to do according to verse 1?
2. Why is he to fill his horn with oil? What does that mean? (v 1) Note what God says in this verse. Saul was the people's choice. Who is choosing this time?
3. Verse 2 reveals something about the mindset of Saul. What do we find out in this verse?
4. What does God tell Samuel to do so that Saul will not interfere with his task? (v. 2-3)
5. Verse 3 demonstrates living by faith. Explain.

6. Why do you think the elders of Bethlehem trembled when they saw Samuel (v. 4)?

### **David is Chosen – 1 Samuel 16:6-13**

7. Samuel prepares the sacrifice and invites the elders and the family of Jesse. He knows he is looking for the one God has chosen to be the next king. He sees Eliab and decides this must be God's chosen one. What does God tell Samuel in verse 7? How important is this lesson for today?

8. Jesse passes all his sons by Samuel but God says none of these are the right one. So Samuel asks if there are any other sons. We discover there is one more son. What do we learn about him in verse 11? Is this a likely candidate?

9. In verse 12 we learn more about the youngest son. What is he like? What does God say about him?

10. What does Samuel do in verse 13? How might David's brothers see this? (ie. Joseph's story).

11. When David is anointed, what happens to him (v. 13)? Compare this to 1 Samuel 10:10. How important is this infilling of the Spirit of God? What seems to be different about David's experience of the Spirit of the Lord and Saul's?

### **David in Saul's Service – 1 Samuel 16:14-23**

12. What tragic event is recorded in verse 14? What do you make of the "harmful spirit from the Lord"?

13. What can we deduce from verse 15?

14. What therapy is suggested by Saul's servants to combat the tormenting spirit (v. 16)?

15. When Saul gives his approval of this plan, the servants suggest a son of Jesse of Bethlehem. How is this man described (v. 18)?
16. Verse 19 helps us identify this man as the David we just met being anointed by Samuel. Where do we find the newly anointed leader?
17. What does Jesse do according to verse 20? Why?
18. What was Saul's initial response to David (v. 21)? What honour is David given?
19. What request does Saul make of Jesse (v. 22)? What might this tell us about the age of David at this time?
20. How was David able to help the tormented Saul according to verse 23? Do you think it was just the music or something more that calmed Saul? Explain.

### **Conclusion:**

As king, Saul has lost the blessing of God, which means he will be removed from office. God has chosen a new king, but he seems a most unlikely candidate. He is still a lad, not full grown. He is from an unimportant village, from a family of no reputation. He is a shepherd, an occupation often looked down upon. Still, God is not distracted by the outward appearance and he sees something in the heart of this young man that he can work with.

How do you train a king? It may be helpful to be close enough to a reigning monarch to see what he does, and the dynamics of the king's court. Despite his humble beginnings God provides a way for David to be educated in court life through a tormenting spirit that came on Saul. David is recruited to play the harp and calm King Saul down when he is tormented. David will not only be in the palace but by Saul's side on the battle field as well as the king's armour bearer. God is training his new leader.

When God calls us to an assignment, He will also be sure that we are "trained" for what lies ahead. What may seem like detours away from our objectives may simply be God's training ground. Be encouraged: God has a reason why He chose you for your particular assignment, and he has already prepared you!