

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.

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. (He 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. (He was tall & handsome; a choice in man's eyes; but not in Gods eyes)

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 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 Shimah or Shimiah in 1Chronicles-2:13, 2Samuel-13:3)

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

¹¹ And 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)

¹² And 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 to be the next king)

¹³ Then 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, he would have killed David. 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 for 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 – God the creator) (His servants noticed a difference in Saul)

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 music would soothe Saul. This was a common treatment for people with mental issues in the ancient world)

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 them)

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)

¹⁹ Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

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 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. (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)

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)