



# Church of God Sunday School

## DAVID IS CHOSEN KING

1 Samuel 16:1-23

King Saul, the first king of Israel, was a disappointment to God, the Prophet Samuel, and the people of Israel. When Saul put his own desires before God's will, God rejected him as king. God was going to give Israel a new king.

Samuel was very sad. He continued to mourn for Saul many days, even though God had rejected Saul for his disobedience. Finally, God said to Samuel, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?" God told Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to see Jesse the Bethlehemite (*BETH-lih-heh-mite*). Jesse had eight sons, and God was going to choose a king from those sons.

Samuel asked God how he could go to Jesse without Saul knowing why he went. Samuel did not want Saul to kill him. God said: "Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. And call Jesse [and his sons] to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee."

When Samuel came to Bethlehem, the elders of the city wondered why he had come. Samuel told them he came peaceably to sacrifice to God, and Samuel called Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice.

When Samuel saw Eliab (*ee-LIE-ab*), Jesse's oldest son, he thought surely this must be the one that God would choose; he was so tall. But God told Samuel not to look at the outside appearance of any of the sons, "for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

One by one, seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, but God gave him no witness that He had chosen any of them. Samuel was a little puzzled. When the last son there had passed by, Samuel asked Jesse, "Are here all thy children?"

Jesse said he had a younger son who was watching the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to send for this son. The youngest son was David; his name meant beloved. He was a youth—just a young boy—but he was nice looking and healthy, with a good complexion from

spending time in the outside air.

David enjoyed being a shepherd. If he did not have to attend to any problems the sheep had, he watched them as they quietly grazed in the meadow. Sometimes he would play his harp, a stringed musical instrument, and sing praises to God. At other times, he practiced with his slingshot.

It was very necessary for a shepherd to practice with his weapon and be able to aim it properly, then he was able to defend the sheep if a lion or another animal, such as a bear, attacked the flock. David really did kill both a lion and a bear while he was a shepherd (see 1 Samuel 17:34-35).

When the servant came, bringing David to the Prophet Samuel, God said to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." This was the son who would give honor to God. David's heart was right toward the Lord.



Samuel took his horn containing the anointing oil and poured the oil on David's head, right in front of his father and all his brothers. No doubt, David was aware of the importance of being anointed by Samuel.

The Bible does not say what Samuel told David, but the Spirit of God came upon David from that day forth.

Samuel left for Ramah (*RAY-muh*) after anointing David. David continued to stay with his family in Bethlehem and watch over the sheep, because his time to be king had not yet come. God had something else for him to do first.

What was it? When the Spirit of God left Saul, "an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him." This spirit would try to choke him at times (according to Josephus, the historian). Saul's servants advised him to find a man who could play well on a harp; then when the evil spirit bothered him, the music could soothe and calm him. King Saul agreed and told them to find such a man.

One of the king's servants spoke up and said he knew of someone who was "cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely [handsome] person," and besides all of that, the Lord was with him.

Who was that one with all those good qualities? Why, it was David! He was still a young lad, but he was chosen to play the harp for Saul. So, off to the palace he had to go to play on the harp whenever Saul needed to hear the beautiful, peaceful music. King Saul

grew to love David, and later on, he made David his armorbearer. Whenever the evil spirit came upon Saul, David played his harp and the evil spirit would leave Saul.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." —1 Samuel 16:7*