

1 Samuel 16 - David's Rise; David Chosen, Anointed; God's Spirit Departs Saul; David Serves in Saul's Court

IV. Transition from the house of Saul to the house of David (1 Samuel 16:1—31:13)

(1) David on friendly terms with Saul (16:1—17:58)

(A) David's anointing (16:1-13)

(B) David's employment in Saul's court (16:14-23)

1 Samuel 16

IV. Transition from the house of Saul to the house of David (1 Samuel 16:1—31:13)

(1) David on friendly terms with Saul (16:1—17:58)

(A) David's anointing (16:1-13)

1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, because **I have chosen** a king for Myself among his sons."

1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons."

1 The LORD told Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I've rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I'm sending you to Jesse from Bethlehem because I've chosen for myself one of his sons as king."

1 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.

- When God rejected Saul, grief consumed Samuel, who seemed to forget God's promise to call a new king (13:13-14; 15:26-29)

— We can not let regrets from the past cause us to forget God's promises for the future

- What a solemn statement: "I have rejected Saul"; however, this rejection was not yet known to the people, and Saul was still "putting on a front" as the king of the land

— A person may be rejected by God and still be accepted by men, but ultimately God's judgment will fall

— In his grief, Samuel must have felt like a dismal failure as a father, a spiritual leader, and a mentor to the new king

- "...I have chosen" - this time, God's choice was not a king for the people according to their desires, but a king for Himself, who would put Him first (13:14)

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears *about it*, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears *of it*, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

2 Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about this and kill me!"

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I've come to offer a sacrifice to the LORD.'

2 And 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 would have perceived Samuel's act of anointing another man king as treason

— Saul was so dangerous that Samuel devised a plan to escape his wrath when visiting Bethlehem

— God does not always promise physical safety, but He always provides a way for us to obey Him

— See 22:17-19 for a sample of Saul's jealous rage

3 And you shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you."

3 You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you."

3 You are to invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I'll show you what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the one I tell you."

3 And 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 gives Samuel instructions

4 So Samuel did what the LORD told *him*, and he came to Bethlehem. Then the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you come in peace?"

4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you come in peace?"

4 Samuel did what the LORD said and went to Bethlehem. The elders of the town came out to meet him trembling, and said, "May your coming be in peace."

4 And 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?

- Samuel had evidently gained a reputation as an executioner since he had killed Agag (Cf. 15:33)

5 And he said, "In peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." He also consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

5 He said, "In peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." He also consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

5 He said, "Peace, I've come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Samuel consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

5 And 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.

- This was the process of picking a king...God promised that one of Jesse's sons would be Israel's next king

6 When they entered, he looked at **Eliab** and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is *standing* before Him."

6 When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him."

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab, and said, "Surely he's the LORD's anointed."

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

- "...Eliab" - called "Elihu"

— Generally everyone would have figured the first born son; even Samuel figured that

— We later find out Eliab was arrogant, critical, fearful, negative...he had a lot of problems (Cf. 17:28)

- When, at God's direction, Samuel arrived at the house of Jesse to invite them to the feast, David was not even there! He was in the fields caring for the sheep.

— We cannot help but be impressed with David's obedience and humility. As the "baby of the family" he had very little status, but he was faithful to his father and to the Lord.

- David's life illustrates Matt 25:21—he began as a servant and became a ruler; he was faithful with a few sheep and then inherited the whole nation; he knew how to work, so God gave him joy.

— Compare this to the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, who began as a leader and ended as a servant; began owning many things and ended up poor; and started with pleasure but finished in slavery.

— Matt 25:21 outlines God's method of success, and we see it proved in the life of David.

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

7 The LORD told Samuel, "Don't look at his appearance or his height, for I've rejected him. Truly, God does not see what man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart."

7 But 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.

- Samuel was about to make the mistake of evaluating the men by their physical gifts (see 10:24) when God reminded him that the heart was the important thing (Cf. Prov 4:23)

— The qualities the Lord looked for when He chose a new king for Israel were not the qualities that the people valued

— God looks past all of the things that man uses to judge people (Cf. Matt 3:17; Mark 10:31; 1 Cor 1:27). God is completely blind to that...He looks at your heart, your motivation, your rationale.

— He doesn't look at what you do...He looks at the reason you do it

— Man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart

Think about that in the way you judge others...the kind of car they drive, the kind of purse they carry, the house they have or where they live...I'm always surprised with how wrong I am about people in my human judgments, and how people are wrong about me.

Why are you doing what you're doing? Why are you thinking what you're thinking? Why are you saying what you're saying? God looks at the heart, our motivations.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass before Samuel. But he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

8 Then Jesse summoned Abinadab and brought him before Samuel, and he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

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

9 Next Jesse had **Shammah** pass by. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either."

9 Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

9 Then Jesse brought Shammah, and he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.
- "...Shammah" - "Shimeah," also called "Shimma"

10 So Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

10 Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel, and Samuel told Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

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

- According to this passage Jesse had eight sons, but according to 1 Chr 2:13-15 David was Jesse's seventh son

— This can be reconciled by supposing that one of Jesse's eight sons died without posterity, and David was the last born son

- Why did God bring seven of Jesse's sons to Samuel before He brought David, when He had already chosen David to be king?

— God was teaching Samuel to not be fooled by appearances, and not to judge others by their appearance

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the boys?" And he said, "The youngest is still left, but behold, he is tending the sheep." So Samuel said to Jesse, "Send *word* and bring him; for we will not take our places at the table until he comes here."

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

11 Then Samuel told Jesse, "Are these all the young men?" He said, "There yet remains the youngest one, and right now he's tending the sheep." Samuel told Jesse, "Send someone to get him, for we won't do anything else until he arrives here."

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.

- Samuel showed his faith in God...he invited Jesse and all of his sons because God told him that one of Jesse's sons was who He chose to be king...and everyone who went by Samuel, he disqualified

— Since Samuel trusted in God's Word, he asked Jesse if he had any other sons

- The fact that David wasn't even invited to the ceremony showed that there was ZERO chance that Samuel would choose David as a king

— David's absence suggests that Jesse did not think as highly of David as he did his other sons

— Shepherds were slaves in that day, and the fact that one of Jesse's sons was a "slave" was disgraceful to him

12 So he sent *word* and brought him in. Now he was reddish, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he."

12 So he sent and brought him. He had a dark, healthy complexion, with beautiful eyes, and he was handsome. The LORD said, "Get up and anoint him, for this is the one."

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.

- When David appeared, summoned from the field, God told Samuel, "This is he!"

— David was fair of skin with red hair. His handsome appearance and his surrendered heart were a wonderful combination.

— God delights to choose "the lowly things of this world" to bring Him great glory (1 Cor 1:26-31)

— He was the eighth son, and eight is the number of new beginning. His anointing with oil brought him a special unction from the Spirit of God, and from that hour he was God's man.

- It is not likely that David or his family understood the significance of the anointing that day. Samuel would certainly explain it to David at an opportune time.

CHRONOLOGY OF DAVID'S LIFE³⁰³			
Event	Date	Age	Reference
Birth	1041	0	2 Sam. 5:4-5
Anointing by Samuel	1029	12	1 Sam. 16:1-13
Defeat of Goliath	1024	17	1 Sam. 17
Exile from Saul	1020-1011	21-30	1 Sam. 21-31
Anointing as King over Judah	1011	30	2 Sam. 2:1-4
Anointing as King over all Israel	1004	37	2 Sam. 5:1-3
Philistines Wars	1004	37	2 Sam. 5:17-25
Conquest of Jerusalem	1004	37	2 Sam. 5:6-10
Mephibosheth's Move to Jerusalem	996	45	2 Sam. 9:1-13
The Three Year Famine	996-993	45-48	2 Sam. 21:1-14
The Ammonite Wars	993-990	48-51	2 Sam. 10-12
Adultery and Murder	992	49	2 Sam. 11
Birth of Solomon	991	50	2 Sam. 12:24-25
Rape of Tamar	987	54	2 Sam. 13:1-22
Death of Amnon	985	56	2 Sam. 13:23-36
Exile of Absalom	985-982	56-59	2 Sam. 13:37-39
Absalom's Return to Jerusalem	982-980	59-61	2 Sam. 14:21-24
Construction of Palace	980-978	61-63	1 Chron. 15:1
Construction of Tabernacle	977	64	1 Chron. 15:1
Move of Ark to Jerusalem	977	64	2 Sam. 6:12-19
Absalom's Rebellion and David's Exile	976	65	2 Sam. 15-18
Rebellion of Sheba	976	65	2 Sam. 20:1-22
The Census	975	66	2 Sam. 24:1-17
Purchase of Temple Site	973	68	2 Sam. 24:18-25
The Davidic Covenant	973	68	2 Sam. 7
Co-regency with Solomon	973-971	68-70	1 Chron. 23:1
Rebellion of Adonijah	972	69	1 Kings 1:5-37
Coronation of Solomon	971	70	1 Chron. 29:22-23
Death	971	70	1 Kings 2:10-11

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came on David from that day forward. Then Samuel got up and went to Ramah.

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.

- So David got there and the Lord told Samuel to anoint David, for this is the king...in front of his brothers

— What is being emphasized here? David is being anointed with oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and Samuel is praying for him

— What was David's brother's reaction? - not sure they were jumping on board

— David was anointed king here, but it was 18 more years before he took the throne (see chart: Chronology of David's Life above)

(B) David's employment in Saul's court (16:14-23)

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD left Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrified him.

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

14 The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

- What a tragic contrast: the Spirit came upon David, but departed from Saul!

— An evil spirit was permitted by God to afflict Saul and he became, at times, like a madman (see 18:10; 19:9); insanity and mental confusion were curses outlined by God for disobedience (Cf. Deut 28:28)

— The evil spirit, like all things, was under God's perfect control. God never commits evil, but He may use evil—whether nature (1 Kings 13:24-28; 20:36; Luke 13:4), human actions (Gen 50:18-21; Jer 20:4-6; Acts 2:23), or evil spiritual beings (Judges 9:23-24; 1 Kings 22:19-23)—to accomplish His good and wise purposes.

— The Lord had less and less contact with Saul as time went on; His empowering Spirit left Saul without the divine anointing and enablement he had once enjoyed (Cf. Judges 9:23; 16:20; 1 Kings 22:21-23; Ps 51:11)

— The departure of the Spirit was discipline for Saul departing from God; when people depart from God, their troubles really begin

— This is evidence of the fact that the presence or absence of the Holy Spirit in the OT says nothing about salvation, but only that His power worked in those whom God selected for service (Cf. Judges 3:10; 6:34; 13:25; 14:6; 1 Sam 10:10; 16:13)

— In like manner, the Spirit's departure says nothing of Saul's salvation but speaks of the Spirit's enabling to serve as king. He never again ruled with power, wisdom or insight from

God. In fact, after years of bearing God's silence, still unwilling to repent, he looked to a witch for answers (28:6-7)

— Saul knew his disobedience was why God rejected him as king (15:26). Similarly, sin costs NT believers the Spirit's power for service. God purposely withdraws privileges in order to draw us back to the joy of full fellowship with Him.

15 Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrifying you.

15 Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you.

15 Saul's servants told him, "Look, an evil spirit from God is troubling you.

15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

16 May our lord now command your servants who are before you. Have them search for a man who is a skillful musician on the harp; and it shall come about whenever the evil spirit from God is upon you, that he shall play *the harp* with his hand, and you will become well."

16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the evil spirit from God is on you, that he shall play *the harp* with his hand, and you will be well."

16 Let our lord order his servants who attend you to look for a man who is skilled in playing the lyre. And then when an evil spirit from God comes on you, he will play and you will be better."

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.

- His strange behavior prompted his servants to suggest that he call a skilled musician to soothe him

— How sad that Saul's servants dealt with the symptoms and not with the causes, for music could never change Saul's sinful heart. He might "feel better" afterward, but it would be a false peace. The servants should have prayed for Saul to get right with God!

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Now select for me a man who can play well, and bring *him* to me."

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me now a man who can play well and bring *him* to me."

17 Saul told his servants, "Find a man for me who can play well and bring him to me."

17 And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

18 Then one of the young men responded and said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a valiant mighty man, a warrior, skillful in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him."

18 Then one of the young men said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him."

18 One of the young men answered: "Look, I've seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skilled in playing. The man is a valiant soldier, gifted in speech, and handsome. And the LORD is with him."

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 was just the man Saul needed, and one of the servants suggested him

— Already we can see David's abilities being recognized, yet David was not promoting himself: God was doing it (Cf. Prov 22:29; 1 Peter 5:6)

- Too many young people today try to push themselves into prominent places without first proving themselves at home in the small matters

More than our service, God desires to make us like His Son, who "learned obedience from what He suffered" (Heb 5:8-9).

19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, who is with the flock."

19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David who is with the flock."

19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

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

- God brought David from the sheep fields to the palace—not as king, but as a servant

- God's way up often first takes us down: Cf. Joseph (Gen 37:5-11,28; 39:1,20; 41:41-43; 45:1-15), David, and Jesus (John 13:1-17; 2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:1-11)

20 And Jesse took a donkey *loaded with* bread and a jug of wine, and *he took* a young goat, and sent *them* to Saul by his son David.

20 Jesse took a donkey *loaded with* bread and a jug of wine and a young goat, and sent *them* to Saul by David his son.

20 Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a container of wine, and one kid, and sent them to Saul along with his son David.

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.

21 Then David came to Saul and attended him; and *Saul* greatly loved him, and he became his armor bearer.

21 Then David came to Saul and attended him; and Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer.

21 David went to Saul and began to serve him. Saul loved him very much, and he became his armor bearer.

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

- Whatever ambitions or desires David had for his own ministry, he laid them aside to serve wholeheartedly where God had placed him

22 So Saul sent *word* to Jesse, saying, "Let David now be my attendant for he has found favor in my sight."

22 Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David now stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

22 Saul sent a messenger to Jesse to tell him, "Allow David to serve me, because I'm pleased with him."

22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

- David came to court and immediately became a favorite

— Had Saul known that God had chosen David to be king, he would have immediately tried to kill the lad. When he did discover this, Saul began to persecute David and hunt him in the wilds of Israel.

23 So it came about whenever the *evil* spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play *it* with his hand; and Saul would feel relieved and become well, and the evil spirit would leave him.

23 So it came about whenever the *evil* spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play *it* with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him.

23 Whenever an evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the lyre and play it. Relief would come to Saul and he would be better, because the evil spirit would leave him.

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.

- David did not remain permanently in Saul's court (Cf. 17:15)

— What humility! Here is a gifted lad, chosen to be king, anointed of God, yet he still cares for the sheep and works as a servant! No wonder God was able to use David.