

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

As we arrive on the doorstep of chapter 16, we come with a troubled heart in light of everything we've read about Saul, the first king of the Israelites.

The whole nation, including Samuel, had pinned their hopes on Saul.

But time and time again Saul proved his inability to lead.

Yes, he could rally the people. Yes, he could win battles.

But ultimately Saul failed to lead God's people because he failed to first be led by God.

And we saw the perfect example of this last week as Saul was given one more chance to show his obedience to the Lord and he failed.

He only demonstrated partial obedience when the Lord demanded full obedience.

And now, God is ready to move on.

Just because Saul failed because of his rebellion – it doesn't mean that the Lord's plans are put on hold.

And here we see Him moving on.

What we are going to see here in chapter 16, is a contrast between Saul and David.

**[1Sa 16:1-23 NKJV] 1 Now the LORD said to Samuel,
"How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have**

rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

So at the beginning of chapter 16, we find Samuel doing the very same thing he was doing in verse 34 of chapter 15: he is grieving over Saul.

Remember, Samuel had once led Israel as a judge.

He had been their leader.

Samuel not only led God's people, but he loved God's people.

If he could not lead them, then maybe God's willingness to give the people a king would mean stability and guidance and blessing for Israel.

But Saul was not the man Samuel hoped for.

He was not what God intended.

He was not the leader Israel needed.

So we find that Samuel is grieving.

But grief like this has an expiration date.

When God says it's time to stop grieving, we should stop, shouldn't we?

And here, God gives Samuel two reasons why his grieving period should come to an end:

1. Samuel's grieving period should come to an end because God has already rejected Saul and He is not changing his mind.

Samuel's grief will not change anything in regard to Saul.

God had already rejected Saul – so Samuel grieving had become inappropriate.

There may be times in our lives when grief persists simply because we will not face the reality of a situation.

But church, when God closes the door, it's closed.

2. The second reason that Samuel no longer needs to grieve was because God has chosen a new king.

Instead of grieving over what was,

Samuel needs to be encouraged about what will be.

God wanted Samuel to get up and go anoint the next king – His chosen king. Remember that with Saul, God gave the Children of Israel what they wanted. Saul had the characteristics that they were looking for – tall and handsome.

The person that God chose for Himself was somebody after His own heart.

Now, I asked that you make a note of the word **king** at the end of verse one.

And the reason is that the Hebrew word that is used here “melek” actually means “king”

So David, from the beginning is referred to as king.

Turn back with me to 1 Samuel 9, because the Lord uses a different Hebrew word when it refers to Saul.

[1Sa 9:15-16 NKJV] 15 Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, 16 "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him **commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me."**

The word that is used in verse 16, is the Hebrew word for prince/ruler. Not king.

So in verse one, we also see God advices Samuel to go anoint the new king – in the same way that God commanded Samuel to anoint Saul.

However, with Saul, you might remember that it was a very public event while with David, the anointing will be a more intimate one.

Also in verse one we have God revealing to Samuel that the king that he has chosen, that it will come from Jesse who you might remember is the grandson of Boaz and Ruth.

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears [it], he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

In our study last week, you might remember that Samuel rebukes Saul publicly for his disobedience to the Lord.

And toward the end of the chapter Samuel, in a demonstration of obedience to the Lord – finishes the job that Saul failed to do by hacking King Agag to pieces.

It was at this point that Samuel goes back home and him and Saul never saw each other again.

Samuel's first response to God's command here in verse two is one of fear –

Saul is going to kill me if he finds out that I am on my way to anoint a new king – he is going to see it as a treasonous act.

And to make matters worse, in order for Samuel to travel to Bethlehem where Jesse is – Samuel is going to have to go through the city where King Saul lives.

But God sees Samuel's heart and provides him with a solution to the problem.

All Samuel needs to do is go, take a cow, and invite Jesse and his family.

God will do the rest. God will show him this new king.

4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

So when Samuel finally gets to Bethlehem, we see here that the elders of the city – now the elders of the city were the

city representatives – the head of the families within the city – and they are just as scared of Samuel as he was of Saul.

Why they are afraid is not clear.

Maybe they think he is coming with a message of divine judgment against them. Maybe what happened back in chapter 15 has become well-known – the hacking of King Agag.

Maybe the falling out between Samuel and Saul has put everyone on edge.

But Samuel reassures them that he is coming peaceably and he is coming to offer a peace offering and actually invites them along with Jesse and his sons.

Now, a peace offering was one where a portion of the meat was sacrificed and a portion of the meat was consumed by those making the offering.

It resembled Thanksgiving –

And back in chapter one, you might remember that Hannah and her husband and his other wife would partake of the peace offering year after year.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed [is] before Him!" 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For [the LORD does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 8 So Jesse called Abinadab,

and made him pass before Samuel. And he said,
"Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse
made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the
LORD chosen this one." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of
his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse,
"The LORD has not chosen these."

As Jesse's family arrives for the ceremony, Samuel seems
convinced that God's choice is as clear as day.

It has to be Eliab, the firstborn. The guy just looks like a king.

He was probably tall like Saul and handsome like Saul.

Now, I asked you to underline all the "looks" and "sees" that
we have in verse 6 and 7.

Because the Hebrew word that is used here is the same in all those instances and it means to inspect with attention or to distinguish.

And Samuel does that but he does it to the physical attributes of those he was inspecting.

God on the other hand, He was inspecting with attention the hearts of the individuals – their character.

And God corrects Samuel, and reminds him that what is inside is far more important than any physical attributes.

The last thing the people need right now is another Saul.

The last thing they need is someone who merely looks like a king, who will inspire in them confidence for more human solutions rather than confidence in God and His word.

And Jesse brings seven of his sons, one by one in front of Samuel and the Lord rejects each one of them.

I asked you to make a note at the end of verse 10 where Samuel tells Jesse that the Lord had not chosen these.

It wasn't that these sons of Jesse were bad men; they were simply not God's choice. God had a man in mind different from Samuel's or even Jesse's expectation – remember Jesse is the one who brought them in the order that he thought they should have been selected.

Anyone of those seven would have been an ideal choice for a potential king as far as the flesh is concerned. But God didn't want a king after the flesh. Israel already had a king like that in King Saul.

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

After God had rejected the seven oldest sons, Samuel has a problem.

You see, God had sent him to anoint a king that day – one of Jesse's sons.

But Samuel knew that the word of God was true.

And he inquires with Jesse and Jesse remembers that yes there is one more –

The youngest – now, I asked you to make a note of the word youngest – it can be translated as smallest – a contrast to King Saul who was the tallest.

Not only was David the smallest, he was the shepherd of the family – and throughout scripture we see the occupation of a shepherd as a metaphor for a spiritual leader.

As we study the life of David, one of the things we will find is that David never loses his shepherds heart.

Turn with me to Psalm 78 –

[Psa 78:70-72 NKJV] 70 He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; 71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. 72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of

his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

When Samuel finds out that there is one more son, he orders Jesse to send for him and the ceremony is placed on hold until they bring him in.

**12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he [was] ruddy,
with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said,
"Arise, anoint him; for this [is] the one!"**

Here at the beginning of verse 12, we have three words that describe the appearance of David.

Ruddy – means that he had a reddish tint to his complexion it was considered desirable – deemed as healthy.

Bright eyes – doesn't mean that he had distinguishable green eyes or blue eyes. The term bright eyes were reserved for someone who was intelligent and full of energy.

Good looking – the word that is used for good looking is the word for pleasant or agreeable/delightful.

Now, why are these words here to describe David's physical appearance when God clearly stated that He didn't care about the outward appearance???

Because the scriptures still want to distinguish between Saul and David.

When the people looked at Saul – they were going to say, now that looks like a king.

But, when the people look at David – they were going to say, now that looks like a really nice boy.

And as soon as they bring in the nice boy before Samuel, God tells him – he is the one.

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

The anointing process involved dumping the oil all over the head of the individual.

In scripture, oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

However, the real anointing happened when the Holy Spirit came upon David.

The oil that was poured on his head was just a sign of this inward reality:

1) The symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon David was the anointing oil on his head.

2) The symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus was the dove that appeared from heaven. – Matthew 3:16

3) The symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples was the tongues of fire that appeared over their heads. –

Acts 2:3

The Holy Spirit loves to do His work as He wills, in many different ways.

This anointing was in a sense the announcement that David is the new King. However, David's literal reign will not begin for a few more years.

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

If God is all-good, why did He send a distressing spirit upon Saul?

There are two senses in which God may send something. He may send something in the active sense or He may send something in a passive sense.

Actively, God never initiates or performs evil; He is the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17).

Passively, God may withdraw the hand of His protection and therefore allow evil to come, without being the source of the evil itself.

Job is the perfect example of this as God allowed satan to do what he did to Job.

It is important to note that all of this was the result of Saul's ongoing disobedience to God, due to his self-will life!

And I must point out that the evil conduct of Saul cannot be blamed on the evil spirit but his own evil heart.

I believe that the scriptures are clear that a Born-Again Christian cannot be possessed by a demon.

[1Jo 5:18 NKJV] 18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

Now, this doesn't mean we are not tempted – or that we will not be attacked – this only means that we cannot be demon possessed.

15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. 16 "Let our master now command your servants, [who are] before you, to seek out a man [who is] a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well." 17 So Saul said to his servants,

"Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring [him] to me."

In verse 15, it says that Saul servants knew that God had sent the distressing spirit to trouble Saul.

The question is how did they know???

- It could have been that it was revealed to them by the Lord.
- It could be that these servants were witness to the progressive rebellion of Saul from the beginning.

They give council to Saul to seek out a skillful player on the harp, to sooth his demonic episodes.

And we see that that the servants were granted permission by Saul to find the harp player.

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, [who is] skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD [is] with him." 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who [is] with the sheep." 20 And Jesse took a donkey [loaded with] bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent [them] by his son David to Saul.

The servant describes suggest David – and starts to list some of the qualities that David exhibited.

His musical ability –

His social family standing – he was a man of valor

His military abilities – he was a man of war

His communication abilities – he was prudent in speech

His physical appearance – he was handsome

And most importantly, his spiritual qualities – and the Lord was with him. And this is a phrase that we are reminded repeatedly regarding David.

So Saul calls for David – remember, he doesn't know that Samuel has already anointed him as king.

21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.(bodyguard) 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play [it] with his hand. Then Saul would

become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

Saul becomes fond of David and actually brings David into the royal court.

He makes David his bodyguard.

You see, God was opening doors for David and it is here where he began to learn the customs and manners he needed to know to be a good king later in life.

David didn't have to force his way into the royal court – he just had to wait upon the Lord for it to happen.

And what we have here at the end of the chapter is Saul becoming dependent on the one individual that was designated to replace him.

Let's pray...

