



# Church of God Sunday School

## DAVID IS CHOSEN KING

### 1 Samuel 16

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? 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." Jesse had eight 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 shew 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, Jesse's oldest son, he thought surely Eliab must be the son that God would choose; he was so tall. But God told Samuel not to look on the outside appearance of any of the sons, for He was not looking on the outside. God was looking on the inside, at their hearts.

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, if these were all his sons.

Jesse said, "There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep." Jesse had not thought to call him. Jesse thought he would not be needed, since he was the youngest son. Samuel said, "Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither."

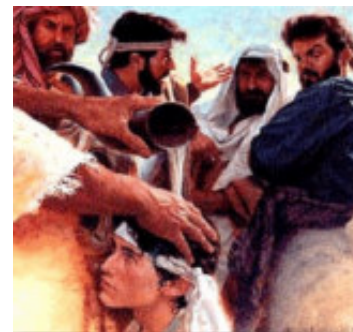
The youngest son was David; his name meant beloved. He was a youth—just a young boy—but he

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 after anointing David. David continued to stay with his family in Bethlehem and watch over the sheep, because his time to be king was not yet. God had something else for him to do first.

What was it? When the Spirit of God came upon David, Saul was left with an evil spirit that tormented his mind! It 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 and sing hymns; then when the evil spirit bothered him, the music could soothe and calm him. King Saul agreed to that and told them to get him 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. David lived at the palace continually, playing for Saul whenever he was needed.

**DAVID: KING OF JUDAH**  
2 Samuel 1-3

Some years after David had been anointed by Samuel, King Saul was in a battle with the Philistines. In that battle, King Saul committed suicide. Then God directed David to go to Judah and dwell in Hebron. So David, his wives, and all his men went up to Hebron. The men of Judah anointed David to be king over Judah.

But Abner, the captain of Saul's army took Ishbosheth, Saul's son, and made him the king "over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel [except for the house of Judah]."

Judah and Israel came together for a battle at the pool of Gibeon. There was a great battle won by Judah, David's men. Israel, led by Abner, was de-

feated. There was a long war between the house of David and the house of Saul. The house of Saul grew weaker and weaker, while the house of David became stronger and stronger.

**DAVID: KING OF ALL ISRAEL**  
2 Samuel 4-5

In time, Abner and Ishbosheth both were killed. Then, the elders of the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron. They said, "Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh." They told David that they wanted him to reign over *all* Israel, not just over Judah. They said that even when Saul was their king, it had been David who had led the army and gone out before them to fight their battles. They reminded David that God had said to him: "Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel."

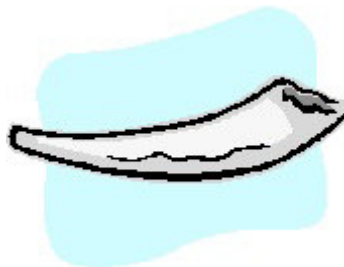
So David and all the elders of Israel made a league, or a covenant, together. Then the elders anointed David to be king over all Israel.

David was thirty years old when he first began to reign in Judah. He reigned for seven years and six months in Hebron. He reigned over all Israel, in Jerusalem, for thirty-three years; so his whole reign was forty years.

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**

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

*Circle the Pictures Below That Belong in the Story*



CHILDREN'S  
**BIBLE**  
ACTIVITY SHEETS

**T**he Lord does not look at the things people look at...  
the Lord looks at the heart.

Fit the words from the list into the puzzle. Write the numbered words from the puzzle into the story.

**Word list**

- oil
- fill
- king
- horn
- rise
- sheep
- seven
- chosen
- anoint
- David
- tending
- youngest
- Samuel
- Bethlehem



God told

(11D) \_\_\_\_\_

to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ his

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ with

(8) \_\_\_\_\_ and go to (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

He had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the new

(12) \_\_\_\_\_. Samuel saw (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of

Jesse's sons. The Lord had not (1) \_\_\_\_\_ any of them. Jesse said his (10) \_\_\_\_\_ son

was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the (11A) \_\_\_\_\_. They sent for him. The Lord said, "(6) \_\_\_\_\_

and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ him. He is the one." His name was (2) \_\_\_\_\_.



# David Is Anointed by Samuel