

DAVID ANOINTED KING

BIBLE TEXT: I Samuel 16:1-23

LESSON 210 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 Samuel 16:1-23

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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.

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.

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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Samuel's Mission to Anoint Another King

1 "I have provided me a king," I Samuel 16:1;

1 Samuel 13:14

¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

Psalms 78:70-72

⁷⁰ He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:

⁷¹ From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

⁷² So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.

2 Jesse of the tribe of Judah is in prophetic line,

Genesis 49:10

¹⁰ The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

Isaiah 11:1

¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Acts 13:21-22

²¹ And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

3 Samuel fears Saul, I Samuel 16:2, 3

II The Sacrifice at Bethlehem

1 The elders tremble at Samuel's visit, I Samuel 16:4, 5;

Matthew 2:3

³ When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

2 All Jesse's sons present are rejected, I Samuel 16:6-10

3 Man looks on the outward — God on the heart, I Samuel 16:7

4 David is called from the sheepfold, I Samuel 16:11, 12;

John 7:3-5

³ His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

⁴ For *there is* no man *that* doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

⁵ For neither did his brethren believe in him.

5 The Spirit of the Lord comes upon David, I Samuel 16:13;

Isaiah 61:1

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

III The Spirit's Departure from Saul

1 The Spirit of the Lord is exchanged for an evil one, I Samuel 16:14

2 David the harpist is sought out by Saul, I Samuel 16:15-19

LORD chosen this.

⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

NOTES:

Instructions to Samuel

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?" Samuel mourned for Saul — very much grieved because of the way Saul had conducted himself. The time came when God said that Samuel had mourned long enough. When someone dies or when one departs from the faith — which is infinitely worse than death — it is only natural that those close to him should be affected and mourn the loss. But there comes a time when mourning should cease and the work of the Lord be carried on. "Fill thine horn with oil, and go," was the command of the Lord to Samuel.

When the people of Israel had asked for a king, the Lord told Samuel, "Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king" (I Samuel 8:22), but when he sent Samuel to Jesse, He said, "I have provided me a king among his sons." The eyes of the Lord had penetrated into the hearts of the thousands in Israel and had found a man after His own heart.

Samuel realized the departure of Saul from the Lord, for he said, "If Saul hear it, he will kill me." What a change a few years had made in this son of Kish who once walked among the prophets! Our Savior warned His disciples, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). A good start does not guarantee one a good finish. Jesus said to those Jews which believed on Him, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

Fear and Trembling

When Samuel came to Bethlehem the elders of the town trembled at his coming, which shows the influence and power of this man of God. Often, just the presence of a man or woman of God will cause sinners to tremble under conviction. Ahab must have trembled that day when Elijah met him in the vineyard of Naboth. Felix trembled when Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come.

Eliab, a Handsome Man

As the sons of Jesse came before Samuel, he looked on tall, handsome Eliab, and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him." How easy it is for man to be mistaken! Man may look upon a person and pronounce him sound; but God, who looks upon the heart, may say he is full of "wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores" (Isaiah 1:6). Many times hopes arise for someone of great talent to be used in the work of the Lord, but God says, "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." Many a man who has the outward qualifications for a worker in the vineyard of the Lord is refused because his heart is set upon things here below. The Gospel call goes forth to the "whosoever will," but so few are willing to answer.

Eliab was one of those chosen by Saul for his army. He could pass the physical test, and no doubt his I. Q. was high, but the call of God was to a higher calling than that of Saul's army. God has plans far above those of man. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9). How grateful we should be, and how carefully we should walk, that we might be counted worthy to

the LORD *is* with 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.

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

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

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.

be included in those higher plans! What a privilege is ours! To think that we are called to be kings and priests unto God! Let us guard well our heart lest we, like Eliab, be refused.

Abinadab, the Next in Line

What an opportunity lay before Abinadab the second son of Jesse! A king was to be anointed in his family His eldest brother had been refused; now it seemed the opportunity was his. A golden moment was before him — the searchlight of heaven was turned on him. The answer was, "Neither hath the LORD chosen this." He had not prepared himself for this opportunity.

Think of what it will mean when men come before the Judge of all the earth, when all nations are gathered before Him! To some He will say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father"; and to others, "Depart from me, ye cursed." It will be too late then to repent. Another chance? No, not throughout the numberless cycles of eternity. Now is our opportunity to prepare for Heaven. Think of the man to whom Jesus said, "One thing thou lackest." Will he stand there in that day with deep pangs in his heart, saying, "Oh, why didn't I do it"? Will you let anything keep you from hearing that "Come, ye blessed of my Father"? Abinadab passed before Samuel, but the verdict was, "Neither hath the LORD chosen this."

Shammah

"Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by." Shammah was called for Saul's army, but not chosen to lead the army of the Lord. The Lord looks upon the heart, and by Him actions are weighed. What is your response to the call of God? Are you doing everything in your power to be among the chosen ones?

The Other Sons

More of the sons of Jesse stood inspection, but the answer was the same, "The LORD hath not chosen these." Will all the sons of Jesse be turned down? Did not God tell Samuel that He had provided a king from among these sons? Samuel asked *Jesse*, "Are here all thy children?" No, the youngest, the one on whom God had His eye, was out in the field tending sheep. He was just a lad, not even called to the feast with his elder brothers, nor considered among those eligible for the crown. But Samuel said, "Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither."

The Anointing of David

Although David was chosen by God because of the inner qualities of his heart, nevertheless, David also presented a good appearance as he was brought before Samuel. The word of the Lord was, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." Samuel anointed him in a simple ceremony before his brethren; but, like the character of David which was deeper than the outward appearance, the anointing was more than pouring oil upon his head. "The Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."

The Lord who calls also supplies the grace and ability to answer the call, and to fill the place of responsibility. What great things men have accomplished when the Spirit of the Lord came upon them! The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet at a time when Israel was dwelling in dens and caves because of the Midianites. That Spirit was still upon him when, with three hundred men, he defeated the hordes of Midian. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. It was the Spirit of the Lord which came upon David when he was anointed, and

that same Spirit later moved him to fight against the giant of Gath when the armies of Israel were dismayed and greatly afraid. It was the Spirit that helped him through the difficult days when he was pursued by Saul. David leaned upon the Lord all his days, and the Lord was with him unto the end.

Saul's Plight

While David was thus being blessed of the Spirit, Saul was in a very sad state. "The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him." The Apostle Paul warns us to "grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." What a glorious seal we have — the Holy Spirit of God! But what an emptiness when the Holy Spirit is grieved and takes His flight! Room is provided in such a heart for seven spirits more wicked than the man has ever known. Surely Saul is proof that the last state of that man is worse than the first. Such need not be the case if we heed the warning and "grieve not the holy Spirit of God." Let us be like David who waited upon the Lord and felt His presence even through the valley of the shadow of death.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What was Samuel's impression of Eliab?
- 2 What is the difference between man's evaluation of man, and God's evaluation?
- 3 What are the names of the eldest and youngest sons of Jesse?
- 4 Where was David born?
- 5 What was David's occupation before being anointed king?
- 6 What was Saul's servant's appraisal of David?
- 7 Who was present at the anointing of David?
- 8 To what could the Spirit of the Lord coming upon David be likened today?
- 9 Why do you think the elders of Bethlehem trembled at the coming of Samuel?
- 10 From what tribe was David?