

## Lesson 10: A New King Rises, First Samuel 16–17

### Read First Samuel 16:1-13

1. Why does Samuel mourn for Saul?
2. How does God get Samuel moving forward again?
3. What is Samuel’s concern?
4. Why do the elders of Bethlehem tremble at Samuel’s coming? What did they have to fear?
5. Why did Samuel think Eliab would be the next king?
6. Who did the LORD pick for king?
7. In what ways are Saul’s and David’s anointings similar and different? (I have outlined the elements from each event as they unfold. Note the chiastic order.)

<b>SAUL</b>	9:1-14	Saul’s father sends him on an errand (to find donkeys)
	9:18-24	Saul & Samuel sit down to the feast
	10:1-16	Saul anointed privately with oil and the Spirit, with signs but no witnesses
	10:17-27	The process of singling out Saul as the king-to-be in front of the nation

<b>DAVID</b>	16:6-12	The process of singling out David as the king-to-be in front of his family
	16:13	David anointed privately with oil and the Spirit, with witnesses but no signs
	(16:11)	David and Samuel sit down to the feast
	16:14-23	David’s father sends him on an errand (to play music for Saul)

In both cases, the LORD gives Samuel a heads up, and announces His pick in much the same way: “This is the one!”

There is a tremendous build up in the narrative as Samuel passes from brother to brother until he comes to David, similar to the build-up we saw in Samuel going family by family to call out Saul.

When Samuel anointed Saul, he did it privately so that only Saul knew, but that was because of the Philistine presence in Gibeah. It was better that no one should know about the new king until Saul had men to guard him. When Samuel anoints David, he does it in the relative privacy of his family, in

the presence of his brothers, perhaps for the same reason—to limit the spread of the news because of the danger.

There is an anointing not just with oil but with the Spirit. Just as the Spirit entered Saul, now the Spirit enters David. Saul had confirming signs but no witnesses; David has confirming witnesses but no signs. That is a reversal.

This is a point to note. All the time Saul was king, the Spirit was present in him, and yet that indwelling Spirit seemed to have little influence over Saul's behavior. It empowered him to an extent, convicted him to an extent, but the choices Saul made were still an outworking of his own carnal nature.

**Read First Samuel 16:14-23.**

The first half of the chapter focuses wholly on David and his family. The section ends with the phrase: “. . . and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward . . .” The chapter then segues abruptly to focus on Saul, but keeps the connecting thought: “*But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul . . .*” (1 Samuel 16:13-14 NKJV)

8. What happens to Saul when the Spirit is taken from him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What help did Saul's servants seek for him to deal with the terror?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What else did David have to recommend him to Saul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. The name **Saul** means “**desired.**” The name **David** means “**beloved.**” What is the difference between desire and love?

**Read First Samuel 17:1-54.**

From the anointing, we now move into a battle scene. Just as Saul immediately launched into war against the Ammonites, now David will battle the Philistines. Chapter 17 opens with a detailed description of battle lines being drawn between Israel and the Philistines.

12. Where does the battle set up?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Who is the antagonist on the Philistine side and how is he described?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Who is the champion on Israel's side?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. How does David enter into the picture?

16. What is the reward Saul is offering for a champion to kill Goliath? (v25)
17. Why does David's oldest brother, Eliab, get angry and rebuke him? (v28)
18. What is Saul's assessment of David? (v33)
19. What case does David make for his abilities? (v34-37)
20. The narrative contrasts David the shepherd and Goliath the giant. What are the differences?
21. How did David win the battle?
22. How does the battle end?
23. Israel returns and takes the plunder. What does David take from the battlefield for his trophies?

### Discussion Questions

When I look through the text overall, these elements stand out as discussion points:

- **There is the focus on appearances – how God sees versus how man sees.**  
*Key verse: “. . . For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (16:7)* This theme runs throughout chapters 16 and 17.
  - David's appearance/how Samuel sees him (16:6-12)
  - How Saul sees David (16:8, 21)
  - Goliath's appearance (17:4-7)
  - How Goliath saw David (17:42)
  - How David saw Goliath (17:45-47)
- **There is a focus on how a warrior clothes himself for battle (Goliath/Saul versus David)**
- **How the battle is fought, comparing Goliath's and David's methods.**  
*Key verse: “. . . the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.” (17:47)*

Let's bring these points into our own context one at a time.

**In regards to appearances:**

- How do we see people in general as God sees people? What should we be looking for?
- Who are our Goliaths in life? What does Goliath model for us?
- When we face our Goliaths, how do their appearances affect us? (How did Goliath's appearance affect Saul and David?)
- What forms to these fortresses take?
- How do we fight these fortresses?
- When we fight, with what armor do we clothe ourselves? (Read Ephesians 6:10-20.)

We fight the battle most often with words, which can be daunting if you are not a good debater. I admit I am not. I don't speak off the cuff well because I have to think about things, and I admit I don't like engaging in verbal combat. But this is something I have learned. You don't always have to meet an enemy's argument with an argument. The truth can be a sword, but it can also be a stone—a simple challenge—that can cause the argument collapses simply by finding a weak spot and poking a hole in it. I will give you an example of one smooth stone when we finish the chapter.