

## Lesson 76

# God Chooses David

God sent Samuel to anoint David as the next king of Israel.

# Overview

## Lesson Focus

God sent Samuel to Jesse's family in Bethlehem to anoint the next king of Israel. Jesse's least likely and youngest son, David, was the one God chose because he had a heart after God's own heart. After Samuel anointed him king, David was called into Saul's service as a musician according to God's plan.

## Key Passages

1 Samuel 13:14, 16:6–19; 1 Corinthians 1:27

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

Identify God's reason for choosing David.  
Describe David's characteristics.

## Memory Verse

1 John 1:8–9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Recall in the last lesson that the first king God chose to rule Israel, King Saul, demonstrated through his disobedience that he thought himself wiser than God. Saul's heart was not right with the Lord, and because of his rebellion, God would take his kingdom away. But who would take Saul's place? God sought a man after his own heart to lead his people (1 Samuel 13:14). God found such a man in David.

God sent Samuel to anoint the man God had determined to take Saul's place. This new king would come from the household of Jesse, a man from the tribe of Judah living in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1). God promised to reveal to Samuel which of Jesse's eight sons was the one whom God had selected (1 Samuel 16:3).

As Jesse presented his sons to Samuel, we see that they must have been impressive young men! Samuel immediately thought that surely God must have chosen Eliab, Jesse's oldest son, as Israel's new king (1 Samuel 16:6). But the Lord revealed that what impressed Samuel was not important to God. Eliab's good looks and height were the focus of Samuel's admiration, but the Lord sees things differently: "man looks

on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Rejecting the seven older sons, God was about to reveal Jesse’s youngest son, David, as the one to replace Saul as king. Jesse apparently didn’t even think enough of David to bring him in from the fields where he was shepherding to attend this sacrifice and meeting with Samuel. And yet, because of David’s heart, he was the one God had chosen. God knew that David would seek him.

David was skillful in playing music, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, and prudent in speech; the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 16:18). David was ruddy and handsome, but he was not chosen for his appearance but his heart. David was the one God intended to be the next king (1 Samuel 16:12). At David’s anointing, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in a special way “from that day forward” (1 Samuel 16:13). The Spirit would give David the power he needed to accomplish God’s will.

While the Spirit of God entered David, God’s Spirit left Saul, and a harmful spirit overcame him, causing him much anguish (1 Samuel 16:14). In God’s sovereign plan, David was called to Saul’s court to comfort and soothe Saul by playing the lyre. David obediently came to serve the king, and Saul loved him and eventually made him his armor-bearer (1 Samuel 16:21).

Looking ahead in David's life, we find that he did fall into sin during his reign (e.g., his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband in 2 Samuel 11). David's heart was not perfect—no man's heart is. But David loved and trusted God rather than his own ways and judgments, as shown in his repentance over his sin (Psalm 51). This cannot be said of Saul, who rebelled against God and made excuses rather than seeking forgiveness through humble repentance.

A striking passage that shows David's heart is found in 1 Chronicles 29. Here, David exhorted Israel to give gifts to support the building of the temple. The people responded generously, and David gave thanks in 1 Chronicles 29:10–19. David asked the Lord, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you" (1 Chronicles 29:14). David knew that all things come from God, including the gifts they were giving for the temple. Though he was king, David knew that God was the true Ruler of all: "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all" (1 Chronicles 29:11).

This heart of faith and adoration is what led David to be brave in battle with Goliath: "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me

from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:37). It is this heart that led David to act honorably toward King Saul and spare his life when Saul was seeking to kill him (1 Samuel 24:12). The characteristic pattern of David’s heart was to trust that the Lord was in control over all things. David served, honored, and loved the true God with all his heart. Such is a heart that is fashioned after God’s own.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

In 1 Samuel 16, we learn that Jesse had eight sons, with David being the youngest. Seven sons passed before Samuel and were rejected by God as the next king. Only when Samuel asked if all his sons were present did Jesse remember David, who was keeping the sheep (1 Samuel 16:10–11). The listing of only seven sons of Jesse in 1 Chronicles 2:13–15 indicates that one of the eight likely died after David’s anointing. David isn’t the only example of God choosing the youngest son; God often chose the younger or the least (e.g., Jacob, Joseph, Gideon) to lead.

David’s first anointing was before his family. His second anointing would be before his tribe, Judah, and the third would be before the nation of Israel. When the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David, this operation of the Holy Spirit was to empower him to accomplish God’s plan for Israel. As David’s ascent to the throne began, so did Saul’s descent (1 Samuel 16:13–14). God sovereignly allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul

for the purpose of bringing David into Saul's service and eventually to his throne. This demon spirit attacked Saul from without and does not appear to have possessed or indwelt Saul. This was not the only time God demonstrated his power and authority over demons. God used evil spirits and Satan for specific purposes in the lives of Abimelech (Judges 9:23), King Ahab (1 Kings 22:19–23), and Job (Job 1:6–12).

God's sovereignty is also seen in the fulfillment of prophecy. In Genesis 49, as Jacob was approaching death, he called his sons together and prophetically blessed them. These blessings were not just for the individual sons, but for their families, which would become the tribes of Israel. Jacob's blessing on Judah is recorded in Genesis 49:8–12. In verse 8, Jacob said, "Your father's sons shall bow down before you," and in verse 10 he said, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah." Israel's first king, Saul, was from the tribe of Benjamin—not the tribe of Judah. We see the fulfillment of Jacob's blessing as the "scepter," or kingdom, was taken from Saul and passed to David, who was of the tribe of Judah. The Lord's intent was that a descendant from the tribe of Judah would reign permanently. And ultimately, that descendant from the tribe of Judah and the Son of David is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior forever.

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