

Theme: God sovereignly chose the young shepherd David to be king, anointed him with the Holy Spirit, and caused him to come into the court of the king - all to initiate events that would make David king and lead to the coming of Christ.

I. George Washington & Abraham Lincoln

- A. Survey after survey - our two greatest presidents
- B. All others jockey for position behind them
- C. Today we resume Game of Thrones series
- D. We have seen period of Judges end & Saul's sad reign
- E. Today we rewind and look at same period but with David
- F. George & Abe combined! - no rival as greatest king
- G. Who is David? How did he become king?
- H. What were his successes - and failures?
- I. How does he move the story forward to Christ?

II. God Sovereignly Chooses A New King

- A. God sends Samuel to anoint a new king
The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." 1 Samuel 16:1
 - 1. Stop mourning over Saul - he is rejected as king
 - 2. Take some oil for anointing a new king
 - 3. I have chosen a new king for My people
 - a. Chosen - ראה - usually "see"; can mean "choose/ provide" (as in Yahweh Yireh - the Lord Provides)

- b. Verb used 7 times in passage - v1, 6, 7 (3x), 17, 18
 - c. Noun form is used 2x in passage (v7; v12)
 - d. More typical word for chosen (בָּחַר) used in v8,9,10 of God not choosing David's brothers
4. This is a major emphasis that God chooses this king. The people had clamored for a king and got Saul, but God Himself is choosing to give them a new king, even when they are not asking for one.

- B. God's method of choosing is different than ours
When they arrived, Samuel **saw** Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his **appearance** or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not **look** at the things man **looks** at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord **looks** at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:6–7
 - 1. Same word as "chosen" in v1 used **three times** here
 - 2. Samuel **seeing/choosing** by outward **appearance**
 - 3. This was what got Israel in trouble before with Saul
 - 4. But God "rejects" (same word used of Saul in v1 and 1 Samuel 15) the one Samuel had seen and chosen
 - 5. This is a major trouble for all of us: we judge by shallow outward appearance, but God sees down to the heart and chooses.
 - 6. This is the radical call of the kingdom - the very things highly esteemed by our culture are rejected by God, for He sees through to the heart of the matter. Disciples of Christ must reject the choice of our culture and follow after God's choice.

C. God's surprising choice

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not **chosen** these."

¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the **youngest**," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." 1 Samuel 16:10–11

1. Seven sons - a full number - come but not chosen
2. Are these all of them? - something is wrong here
3. Well there is the "youngest" - יִצְחָק
 - a. Primary meaning of "smallest" for יִצְחָק
 - b. They had not even thought to bring David - he was to small, young, and insignificant
 - c. But God does not see/choose like we do!

So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine **appearance** and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." 1 Samuel 16:12

4. Interestingly, David's appearance (noun form of word for see/choose) is actually great
5. But the one not even considered by his family is chosen by God to be the next king!

III. God Anoints David with the Spirit

A. Samuel anoints David as king

So **Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him** in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16:13

1. Anointing in some ancient cultures to install kings
2. In Israel had been used for tabernacle, utensils
3. It had been used to install Saul - and now David
4. Interestingly in Egypt Pharaoh not anointed - but his servant vassals were
5. God is showing David is His choice for king - but David is His vassal servant.
6. Saul had been rejected because he played the game of thrones, trying to set up his own rule apart from God - David must not do this.

B. The Holy Spirit comes upon David

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and **from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power**. Samuel then went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16:13

1. Samuel anointed with oil; God with the Spirit!
2. The Spirit rushes upon David from that time
3. David is now the man of the Spirit!
4. This explains why David will have a meteoric rise from an insignificant shepherd to a mighty warrior, and king of the nation. It is not just David - it is David the anointed one who does this.

C. A tale of three kings

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on **the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power**. **Samuel then went to Ramah**. ¹⁴ Now **the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul**, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:13–14

1. Story moves from **Samuel** & Saul to Saul & David
 - a. **Samuel** - 117x in 1Sam 1-16; 13x in 1 Samuel 17-31
 - b. David - 1st mention in 16:13; 268x in 1Sam 16-31
2. Note contrast between **Saul** and **David**
 - a. Spirit comes on David and leaves Saul (v13-14)
 - b. The people clamored for Saul; David chosen by God
 - c. David a shepherd; Saul was chasing mules
 - d. David is chosen, Saul is rejected
3. David is a type of the Messiah (the Anointed One)
 - a. The first time David is named is when the Spirit comes on Him - he is the man anointed by the Spirit
 - b. David not outwardly impressive, nor the Messiah
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. Isaiah 53:2
 - c. David and the Messiah are anointed by the Spirit
A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord— Isaiah 11:1–2
4. Saul, the man who the people would choose is bereft of the Spirit and fails, but the one God chooses is given the Spirit and will deliver and shepherd the people. This is all a type of the coming Messiah, the One Anointed with the Spirit, who delivers God's people and shepherds them.

IV. God Brings David Into the Court of Saul

- A. Saul is tormented by an evil/injurious spirit

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.
15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better." 1 Samuel 16:14–16

 1. An evil Spirit replaces the Holy Spirit
 - a. Word evil can mean injurious/illness - not just moral evil
 - b. This has happened because Saul rejected Yahweh's kingship to establish his own. Such actions always lead to disaster.
 - c. But God is in control of this spirit - and will use this to further His own plan
 2. Servants - get a musician to play to relieve the torment
 - a. Music was often used to do this type of thing
 - b. But Saul should have repented and submitted to Yahweh - but they will try to relieve the symptoms instead of getting rid of the root cause
- B. God brings David into Saul's court

So Saul said to his attendants, "**Find** someone who plays well and bring him to me." ¹⁸ One of the servants answered, "I have **seen** a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And **the Lord is with him.**" 1 Samuel 16:17–18

1. Saul and servant use same word as “chosen/seen” from v1, 6, 7
2. Subtle way to show that God is behind this - he is bringing Saul and David together
3. Of all the possible people - the servant has heard glowing reports about David
4. But key report is that the LORD is with David. He walks in & brings the presence of Yahweh with Him.

C. The beginning of Saul and David’s relationship

Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, “Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.”

²³ Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. 1 Samuel 16:22–23

1. David plays and helps Saul - and Saul is pleased with David
2. We also see here a glimpse of David the great Psalmist, the singer of songs for Israel
3. Of course, Saul has no idea he is bringing the true king into his court - but God knows exactly what is happening and will use it for his own purposes!

V. Applying the Word of the King

A. Do I live under the sovereignty of God?

1. God is sovereign throughout this passage
2. Chooses David, gives Spirit, leads into Saul’s court
3. Do I see God chooses very differently than the way this world does?

4. His ways, thoughts, choices are very different than fallen humanity’s - and if we follow them it will bring us into conflict with the world
5. Do I think and choose as the world does - or as God does? What determines what I value - God or the world around me?
6. Am I willing to follow God’s choices even if it costs?
7. Remember Saul is rejected because he refused to submit to God’s sovereignty - with disastrous consequences for himself (and many others as well)
8. Am I being a David or a Saul? Am I submitting to God’s choice - or playing the Game of Thrones?

B. The Table of the King

1. Here we come to the Table of the True High King
2. Come and confess sin, receive forgiveness - and strength to quit the game of thrones!

The Shepherd King

1 Samuel 16

April 3, 2016

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; sovereignty of God; Holy Spirit; offices of Christ; Christology

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21