### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 16

1But then the Lord asked SamuEl:  
  
 ‘How much longer are you going to mourn for Saul? Don’t I treat him with contempt, and didn’t I remove his rulership from IsraEl?  
  
 ‘Now, fill your horn with oil and go, because I’m sending you to JesSe in BethLehem, since I’ve found My [new] king among his sons!’  
  
2And SamuEl asked:  
  
 ‘How can I go there… For if I do, won’t Saul hear about it and kill me?’  
  
And the Lord replied:  
  
 ‘Take along a brown heifer and say that you’re going to offer it as a sacrifice to Jehovah. 3Then call JesSe and his sons to [participate in] the sacrifice… I’ll tell you what to do then.  
  
 ‘You must anoint whomever I indicate to you.’  
  
4So SamuEl did everything that Jehovah said and he went to BethLehem.  
  
  
However, the city elders were startled when they saw him, and they asked:  
  
 ‘Is your mission here peaceful?’  
  
5And he replied:  
  
 ‘Peace! I’ve come to sacrifice to Jehovah.  
  
 ‘So, make yourselves holy, then come and recline with me [to share in] the sacrifice!’  
  
Therefore, JesSe and his sons also made themselves holy and they went to [participate in] the sacrificing. 6And when they got there, [SamuEl] said concerning [JesSe’s eldest son] EliAb:  
  
 ‘Is this one who’s standing before [me] Jehovah’s anointed?’  
  
7But the Lord said to SamuEl:  
  
 ‘Don’t pay attention to what [a man] looks like [on the outside], nor should you treat his size with contempt, for God doesn’t look at what a person appears to be on the surface. Rather, He sees what’s in the heart.’  
  
8So JesSe next brought AmiNadab up to stand before SamuEl. And [SamuEl] said:  
  
 ‘He isn’t the one whom Jehovah has chosen either.’  
  
9Then JesSe brought ShamMah forward. But [SamuEl] said:  
  
 ‘Nor has Jehovah chosen this one.’  
  
10Well, JesSe sent 7 of his sons to stand before SamuEl, but he told JesSe:  
  
 ‘Jehovah hasn’t chosen any of these.’  
  
11So then SamuEl asked:  
  
 ‘Are these all the boys that you have?’  
  
And JesSe replied:  
  
 ‘Well, there’s still the youngest… {Look!} he’s out tending my flock.’  
  
And SamuEl said to JesSe:  
  
 ‘Then, send someone to get him, for we aren’t going to rest [tonight] until he gets here!’  
  
12So they sent for [David] and brought him there.  
  
[Now, David] had a ruddy complexion, beautiful eyes, and he was very handsome. And then the Lord told SamuEl:  
  
 ‘Arise and anoint him, for he’s the one!’  
  
13So SamuEl took his horn full of oil and anointed him there in the midst of his brothers, and the Breath of Jehovah came upon [and remained upon] David from that day forward.  
  
Well after that, SamuEl got up and returned to RamAh.  
  
  
14And that’s also when the Breath of Jehovah left Saul, for Jehovah sent a fearsome smothering spirit over him, 15so that even Saul’s servants were saying:  
  
 ‘Look! There’s a fearsome spirit from Jehovah that’s smothering you!  
  
 16‘So please, O lord, allow your servants to speak before you, and allow us to search for a man who’ll play his harp before you. Then whenever that fearsome spirit of God comes over you, he can play his harp and make you feel better!’  
  
17So Saul said to his servants:  
  
 ‘Go search for such a man who’s a skilled musician and bring him to me!’  
  
18And that’s when one of his servants said:  
  
 ‘Look, I’ve seen the son of the BethLehemite JesSe, who knows how to play. He’s very alert, he’s a warrior, he’s good with words, he’s handsome, and Jehovah is with him.’  
  
19So then Saul sent messengers to JesSe, who told him:  
  
 ‘I want you to send your son David to me… The one who shepherds your sheep.’  
  
20As a result, JesSe loaded his burro with a bushel of bread, a skin flask of wine and a kid goat, and he gave it to David to carry to Saul.  
  
21Then, after David reached Saul and stood before him, Saul came to love him, and he appointed David to be in charge of his weapons.  
  
22So he sent a message to JesSe that said:  
  
 ‘Please allow David to stay with me, because he’s found my favor.’  
  
23And thereafter, whenever the fearsome spirit of God came over Saul, David would take his harp and play it, which made Saul feel better… And the fearsome spirit of God would leave him.