

## Chapter Eighteen – Samuel Anoints David as the Second King

The next morning when Saul saw Samuel, he went up to him and greeted him saying, “See I have done all that the Lord commanded me.” But Samuel, who was shocked at what he saw, replied, “Why do I hear cattle and sheep then?” Saul made up an excuse that his men saved the best of the flocks and herds to offer them to the Lord in sacrifice. Samuel was upset because God had entrusted Saul to lead his people but he chose not to follow his orders. So Samuel said to Saul, “Do you think you can win God’s favour by offering sacrifice instead of doing what he told you to do? God loves obedience far more than any sacrifice. The Lord has rejected you. He has taken away your kingship over the Israelites since you have proved disloyal to him.”

Samuel turned to leave but Saul caught the edge of his cloak and pulled so hard that it tore and a large piece was left in his hands. “This day,” Samuel said, “the Lord has torn away the kingship of Israel from you and will give it to a better man.” This was the last time Samuel saw Saul.

After Saul had been rejected by God, God told Samuel, “Fill your horn with oil and go to Bethlehem to the house of a man called Jesse. There you will find the new king among his sons.”

Jesse had eight sons and David was the youngest. When Samuel met the strong and handsome oldest son, he was quite certain that he had met the future king. But God spoke and said, “I do not judge by outward appearances. I look at the heart. This is not the one I have chosen.” The other six came in and, just like before, God did not choose them. Then Samuel asked, “Are all your sons here?”

“No.” replied Jesse, “David the youngest is looking after the sheep. Let me bring him in.”

David was a handsome and healthy young man with sparkling eyes. Then the Lord spoke to Samuel in his heart, “Anoint him. He is the one I have chosen.” Samuel took out his horn and poured olive oil on David to anoint him. From that time on, God was always with David.

Meanwhile, every now and then Saul felt very sick at heart so his servants suggested that he listen to the music of the harp which could comfort and calm him. One of them said, “There is a young man in Bethlehem whose name is David. I have been told that he is very good at playing the harp.” Saul sent his servants to look for David. When David played the harp it made Saul feel better and he was no longer sick at heart. Saul liked David and let him stay to serve him.

Later the Israelites waged war against the Philistines. The Israelites were on one side of the valley and the Philistines on the other side. There was a giant in the army of the Philistines who was more than nine feet tall. His name was Goliath. He was all covered in heavy metal armour. He challenged the Israelites saying, "There is no need for us to fight a battle. Let one of you come down and fight me. If he wins and kills me, we will all become your slaves. But if I kill him, then you will all serve us." Saul's army was terrified. No one dared to challenge Goliath.



*David the Shepherd*

Questions:

1. What happened at the final meeting between Samuel and Saul?
2. How does God judge people?
3. In daily life, how might some people judge others by outward appearances?
4. How was David able to calm Saul's emotions?
5. Why was everyone afraid to challenge Goliath?
6. If you see someone who is unhappy, how can you help?
7. Write a song to calm emotions.