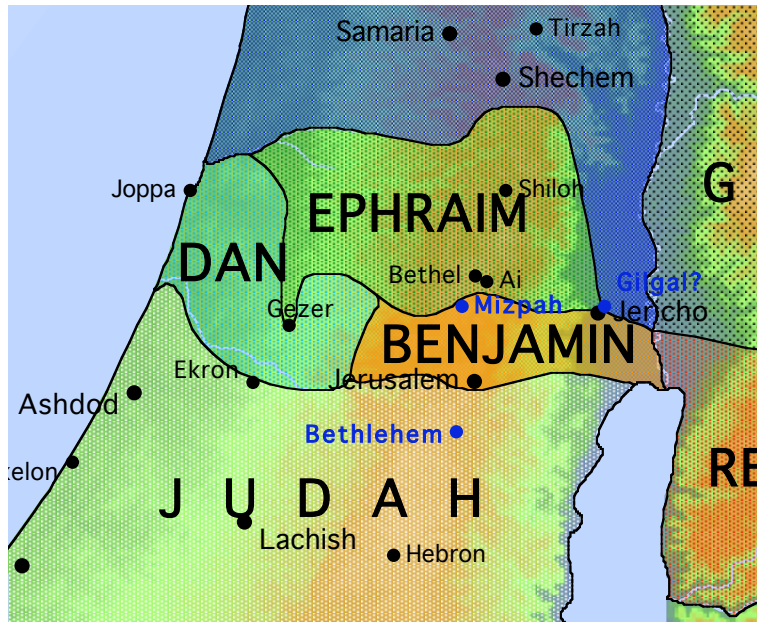


From Insignificant to Servant of the King



Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1–13

16:1 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.”

16:2 But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.”

16:2b The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”

16:3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

16:4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

16:5 Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

16:6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

16:7 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.”

16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” 16:9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” 16:10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” 16:11 So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

16:11b “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.”

16:11b Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

16:12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

16:12b Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

16:13 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.

16:14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him...

16:17 So Saul said his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."

16:18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jess 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..."

16:21...David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much...



3. What words or phrases do you see repeated in the passage?

4. What possible themes could this passage be addressing?

STORY INTERPRETATION

1. How does this story fit into the larger story of David and how God is working through him to establish His kingdom?

Focus Questions:

a. What does the election of David have to say about what kind of people God chooses for his service?

b. What is election to God's service based on?

c. What seems to be a primary responsibility of "the priesthood of all believers?"

2. What do you understand of David from this passage that confirms him as a “man after God’s own heart?”

3. David is a flawed man. What flaw(s) do you see in this passage, and how does David respond in situations where his flaws are exposed?

FROM DAVID’S STORY TO OUR STORY

1. How does this passage help you see what God could be doing in your story to accomplish something for His story (His kingdom)?

Focus Question:

- a. Where do you feel most inadequate for what God wants you to do?

2. How does David’s recognition of and response to his flaws compare with yours?

Focus Questions:

- a. How do you respond when you are asked to do something you feel inadequate to do?

b. How would you hope to respond?

3. How might the Spirit be transforming you to look more like Christ?

What would be different about you?

How has the work of Christ provided what you need to be transformed?

How will you respond to Him?