

## A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc.

### David's Anointing and the Sovereignty of God

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David was Anointed at **Bethlehem** (c. 1025 BC, age 15 [David born c. 1040 BC.]) – 1 Samuel 16

The first reference to David in the Bible occurs in the Book of Ruth. *"A son [a grandson] has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed [the son of Ruth and Boaz]. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David* (Ruth 4:17.) [So Ruth was Jesse's grandmother and David's great-grandmother.] This is followed in Ruth 4:18-22 by the genealogy that traces the family line of Judah from Perez, son of Judah and Tamar, through Boaz to David. It seems that the whole point of the Book of Ruth, possibly written by Samuel during the early life of David, is to tell us the genealogical heritage of David.

*Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons* (1 Samuel 16:1).

**Three observations are significant as we look at this introductory verse.**

1. Saul (1080-1010 BC, reigned 1050-1010 BC) was king (for 40 years) even though God had *rejected him from being king over Israel.*

**Theological note:** even though God *removes kings and establishes kings* (Daniel 2:21), we may have leaders still in power whom God has rejected.

2. God selected David when (or before) he was a boy about 15 years old or younger, which was at least 15 years before he became king at age 30. Saul was 55 at the time. It was 1025 BC and Saul had been king for 25 years, when Saul died at age 70.

**Theological note:** God predetermines events that are then worked out as real free will acts in the lives of His people (Romans 8:28).

3. God did not just choose a king for Israel, He choose a king for Himself.

**Theological note:** All things are done by God for His own glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Verses 2-13 is the selection process that eliminated the older sons of Jesse until David came, and God told Samuel, *"...anoint him; for this is he"* (v. 12). The lesson for Samuel (and all of us) in this selection process is that *God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart* (v. 7).

**Application:** Don't make God's choices for Him. You can't see the heart, that is, you don't know a person's motives, desires, or moral make up, even your own.

The ethical question in this process is about God saying Samuel could tell Saul, *"I have come to sacrifice to the Lord"* (v. 2). God told Samuel to deceive Saul, if necessary.

**Theological note:** All ethical conflicts have one common solution. The right thing to do is whatever God is doing.

Another interesting question is, why anoint David at all? David was anointed king two more time— over Judah in Hebron and over the United Kingdom in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 2:4 and 5:3). Why was he anointed as a boy?

Some possible answers are:

- To indicate he was God's predetermined choice, not just the people's choice
- To let Samuel (and all of us) know that *the LORD looks at the heart*
- To give a resolve to David. Trusting God meant knowing he would be king, which meant enemies like Goliath, the Philistines, and Saul could not kill him.

**Theological note:** If there is one big lesson to learn from the life of David, it's that God is 100% sovereign over everything and He determines our future, and we have 100% unhindered free will over what we do, so that our decisions determine our destiny.

**Application:** And I suggest this is the underlying most basic application of this whole study: **Live each moment with the realization of the Sovereignty of God over your life and the impact of the decisions of yourself and others on your life.** Neither are diminished by the other. David believed in the complete undiminished sovereignty of God. He also believed he had to flee from Saul and fight the Philistines to stay alive, knowing that the course of his life was also completely determined by his actions and those of the people around him. For example, today David would carry a gun, secure his home, buy insurance, and go to the doctor when he was sick, at the same time he trusted God for his defense, safety, well-being, and health.