

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study - Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1–13

Part 1: God Chooses David

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1 Samuel 13:14 “But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.” (NIV)

1 Samuel 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 powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.” (NIV)

Question 1: Who do you know about David and what do you like about him?

I. Overview: About King David

King David is one of the most popular and significant figures in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament. This is partly because the narrative dedicated to his life is second only to that of Jesus in the entire Bible. His story is extensively covered in the books of 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, and 2 Chronicles. David is portrayed as a divinely chosen leader, a courageous warrior, a skilled musician and a poet. About half of the whole books of Psalms are attributed to David. Here are some of the key attributes of David.

1. **He is the Idealized King:** David is the second king of Israel who became king due the failure of king Saul, the first king of Israel. The Lord called him a man after his own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). The combination of his faith, connection with God, courage as a leader, military prowess, and his ability to unite the nation sets him apart among the kings of Israel. He established Jerusalem as Israel's capital and brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:1-19). That is why the phrase "he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord" is used to describe the reigns of kings in the Old Testament who did right such as Asa (1 Kings 15:3), Josiah (2 Kings 22:2), and Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:3)
2. **An Imperfect Hero:** Despite his strengths, David is also depicted as a flawed individual who commits adultery with Bathsheba and arranges the death of her husband, Uriah. This complexity makes him a relatable and human figure, highlighting both his triumphs and his failures. His story serves as a reminder that even those called by God are not immune to sin and human failings, and that God's grace can work even through imperfect individuals.
3. **Messianic Lineage:** David is a key figure in the lineage of the Messiah. That is why Jesus was often referred to as “son of David”. The Davidic Covenant, a significant promise from God, establishes David's dynasty and its enduring impact on Israelite history (2 Samuel 7). Jesus is the fulfilment of the covenant.
4. **Enduring Legacy:** David's story has resonated throughout history, influencing art, literature, and religious thought. He is remembered for his faith, his military prowess, and his role in establishing Jerusalem as a central religious and political site. and a figure central to Israelite history and the promise of the Messiah.

I. Introduction

The fall and the rejection of king Saul; a tall, handsome and imposing figure (1 Samuel 9:2) followed by the choice of David; an unassuming, humble young man (1 Samuel 17:42) as his replacement, is one of the most remarkable stories in the Bible. In our passage today (1 Samuel 16:1–13), Saul has been rejected as king due to disobedience (1 Sam. 15). God sends Samuel to anoint a new king from Jesse’s sons in Bethlehem.

II. David Was God’s Choice (Verse 1–3)

- God initiates the plan to choose David: He told Samuel, "I have chosen one of his sons to be king." (Verse 1). Also, “I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”
- The first hindrance we see to God’s choice was fear. Samuel fears Saul but thankfully eventually obeys God's instructions. Even a great Prophet like Samuel was almost swayed by fear.
- The second hindrance is Samuel’s opinion; how often do we see our human opinion jeopardizes the will of God.

Question 2: *What can we learn from the fact that a great prophet like Samuel was plagued by fear and human opinion in his obedience to God?*

III. God's Perspective vs. Man's Perspective (Verse 4–7)

1 Samuel 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 people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

- Here we see a classic case of when human perspective clashes with God's perspective. Samuel, the prophet, was impressed by Eliab's appearance (looks, height, charisma, etc.) and concluded that he must be God's choice.
- God however corrected Samuel, when he said, *“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* (1 Samuel 16:7) This is a very powerful statement that has become one of the most quoted verses of the scripture.
- This reminds us of Jesus' own words in Matthew 15:8-9 *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”* (NIV)

Question 3: *What is the meaning of the statement “but the Lord looks at the heart”. How does it change your view of God and life?*

Question 4: *Have you ever had a situation where, like Samuel, you thought someone, or something was of God and later realizes otherwise?*

IV. David Overlooked by His Family (Verse 8–11)

- Another interesting aspect of David's choice was the fact that somehow David's own family did not invite him to the gathering even though from the passage it appears Samuel had instructed and hence expected him to bring all his sons.
- David was, however, left to tend to the sheep. Perhaps Jesse thought David was too young to be part of the special event. However, it's interesting how events and circumstances of life can conspire against the will of God.

Question 5: *Have you ever been counted out or bypassed for an opportunity by people who should be rooting for you? How does it feel? What lessons can you learn from this story?*

V. David Anointed by God (Verse 12–13)

1 Samuel 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 powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.*

- In spite of all David is anointed in front of everyone. The circumstances probably made his choice even more remarkable. He is brought in—young, ruddy, with beautiful eyes.
- Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” God says, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one.”
- **The Spirit of the Lord comes upon David powerfully from that day forward.**

Question 6: *What does it mean to be anointed? What is the implication of David being publicly anointed?*

Question 7: *From this passage, we see that the ultimate qualification of David was a man after God's own hearts. “...the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart”. What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart?*