

Bible Study on 1 Samuel
1 SAMUEL 16: THE ANOINTING OF DAVID

1. 1 Samuel 16.1-13. Samuel Anoints David to replace king Saul

2. 1 Samuel 16.14-23. David's Ministry to Saul

- Major literary transition from v.13 (David's rise) to v.14 (Saul's decline)
- That the Spirit departed from Saul does not mean he lost his salvation (he never had it). It means he lost the gifts of leadership: prophecy, wisdom, courage, etc.
- "A distressing [*evil* KJV] spirit from the LORD troubled him." Cf. 1 Kings 22:19-23

APPLICATION

1. That God looks on the inside "should produce sobriety and the fear of the Lord (Prov. 15:11; 16:2; Heb. 4:13). It ought to be our constant desire and prayer that as the Lord looks at us He will see nothing that displeases Him (Psalm 17:3; 139:23-24)" (*Reformation Heritage Bible*).
2. The same Spirit that empowered David "is available today to empower believers to accomplish anything the Lord gives us to do" (*Encountering the Old Testament*).
3. "The fact that Saul's troubled soul could be soothed by David's harp suggests something about the inherent power of music to affect the person even apart from its words. Music is often the instrument of Satan to arouse passions and behaviors that are destructive to self and society. On the other hand, music is a means of praising and worshiping God and can direct our hearts heavenward. Let us be careful not to listen to music that incites the works of the flesh, like sensuality and anger, but instead to listen to music that helps us to think, feel, and act for the glory of God [see Col. 3:16]" (*Reformation Heritage Bible*).
4. David "was a blessing to the very man he would one day succeed. David gave himself willingly to this service, for the Lord's sake. Such service was already a preparation for the throne, for a king was not to be a man who used power for own benefit. He was to use the throne to serve the Lord and to be a blessing to others. ... In the same way, Christ on His throne serves the Father and is therefore a blessing to His people. He is even a blessing to those who do not fear God, preventing the world from collapsing in total disorder. Believers, too, are called to be a blessing to the entire world – even to unbelievers among whom they continue to live" (DeGraaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, 2:110-111). "David sets an example for believers today who find themselves in service to a difficult employer or responding to troubled parents. Even when we must submit to higher authorities, Christians can make a great difference, bringing light into darkness and providing salt to preserve life and bring pleasant flavor to any situation" (Phillips, *1 Samuel*, 275).