

**Title:** God's Perfect Vision  
**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13  
**Series:** God, the True King!

1. Introduction:

- a. In the rest of 1 Samuel, God, the Lord of History, providentially guides the lives of two men, Saul and David.
  - i. From this point on, we will see the decline of King Saul. Having been rejected by God, Saul embraces terrible spiritual darkness that ultimately leads to his destruction.
  - ii. But in this chapter, we have the introduction of a better king. God provides a man **after his own heart**. In David, we find a king that genuinely loves God and His people. From David will flow the blessings of God's promises to the entire world. David will model a kingship representative of the future messianic kingdom. David's Greater Son, Jesus Christ, will rule that coming Kingdom for all eternity.
- b. Chapter 16 is divided into two sections. In the first section, God chooses David, and in the second section, Saul chooses David as his armorbearer. Now we know that the second choice was the result of the first. From this point forward, we will see David rising in stature and in the esteem of Israel. God begins to prepare him for the kingship.
- c. From the beginning of first Samuel and now to its conclusion, we can witness with stunning detail the

sovereignty of God. God's open display of sovereignty teaches us that He does all things for His own glory and then for the benefit of his people. We see in 1 and 2 Samuel that all of history is in the hands of God. God's sovereignty extends beyond the life of King Saul and David, beyond the kings of Israel, beyond the first advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and into the wonderful Messianic Kingdom promised in 2 Samuel. All life and history are sovereignly decreed for God's purpose.

2. Verse 1: God's faithfulness to His people: 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 provided for myself a king among his sons."

a. **The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul,**

i. Our narrative opens with the prophet grieving the disqualification of King Saul. From the moment Samuel walked away from Saul in chapter 15, Samuel had been lamenting; he was overcome with a sense of loss. What had happened to Saul, a man so full of promise at the very onset? What would happen to God's people without a Spirit-led leader to guide them and teach them the fear of the Lord? Samuel finds himself in turmoil over the current state of affairs.

1. To a certain extent, it is good to grieve as Samuel grieved. It demonstrates a heart of love. But we must not go so far as to forget that God sovereignly protects His people. We cannot forget that God, who rejects one man, will lift another. A mourning period is appropriate, but that period must not be prolonged.

a. Beloved, our passage speaks to you and me today. Because of the current state of affairs in our country and our world, it is easy to be filled with overwhelming despair.

i. We tend to look at the circumstances of life and not the Author of it.

b. Beloved, to despair, is to disregard God's sovereignty, and this cannot be. Therefore, God moves Samuel past his lamentation and into action.

**b. Since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?**

i. Saul's disobedience cost him dearly, but we must not forget that ultimately it was God who had rejected Saul. In other words, none of the events that had led to this sad state of affairs were outside of God's control.

1. We read that the Lord had already decided to choose another man suitable for His work. Samuel has no more time to waste by grieving about the man whom God has

already rejected. God already is bringing something better to His people. The dawn of salvation is at hand in the choosing of David, a precursor to Jesus Christ.

c. **Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite...**

i. The time of grieving is over, and now what lies before us as a time of action. Samuel must go and prepare the way for the new king. God's people will have godly leadership.

1. To be perpetually in despair is to be hindered from moving forward in accomplishing God's work. We must be willing to move on past the hard circumstances of unexpected life events to fulfill God's work for us. Samuel would learn this lesson.

d. We must remember that while Saul was chosen because of the people's desire for a king, the Lord now chooses this king on his own; **for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.**

i. This phrase alone lets us know that David will be a different king. The contrast between David and Saul is stark.

1. But here, we encounter the faithfulness of God. Not only would He provide the next king, but that next king would be a godly leader. Could the people hope for anything more?

3. Verses 2-3: The chosen of the Lord: And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” (3) And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”
- a. No king would want to see another king be anointed while still on the throne. In the eyes of any sitting king, the anointing of a new king would be considered a treasonous act punishable by death.
    - i. Samuel is instructed to go and present a sacrifice, and thus God will protect His man.
  - b. **And I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.**
    - i. From this portion of scripture, we are to understand that the Kingdom is only safe when it is in God’s hands. Or in other words, God’s people are only safe when God leads them.
      - 1. In His infinite mercy, God will choose an appropriate savior for his people. This is the pattern of God.
        - a. Whenever the people have been in need, God has always provided.
        - b. Let us consider our greatest need; salvation. God has anointed and declared that salvation would only flow through the perfect savior Jesus Christ.
    - ii. Notice, beloved, **that God will show Samuel what to do. God will instruct him as to who to anoint.**

1. This time God will choose a man according to the purposes of his own heart and not according to the desires of the people. And the result of such will be a blessing that will reach the four corners of the earth and through the history of man. In giving David as the temporal savior to his people, God gives us Jesus Christ as the spiritual savior of God's elect.

4. Verses 4-5A: Tremble before God's Word: Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" (5) And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice."
- a. Although afraid, Samuel demonstrated his obedience to God. as Christians, fear is never to control us. The Bible simply states that **Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem.**
    - i. Much of our fear would subside if God's people put obedience above feelings. It is legitimate to obey God while trembling with fear. This is how fear is conquered, and boldness grows within God's people.
  - b. How strange it is for us to read that **the elders of the city came to meet Samuel with trembling as they asked him if he came in peace or not.**

- i. This verse demonstrates the appropriate respect that the Church of God should have for her godly leaders.
  - 1. Had Samuel been sent to judge and rebuke them for some sin they had committed? This is the thought flowing in the hearts of the city's elders.
- ii. These elders understood that the man of God represented the Word of God. That very thought filled them with incredible awe! Any minister who rightly represents God to His people should be a person of high esteem and respect.
  - 1. Every Sunday, we should tremble at the Word of God coming from the minister's mouth. God is speaking through man, and he is speaking to us directly. Should we not tremble at this thought?
    - a. **Isaiah 66:2** All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

5. Verse 5B-10: The heart of godly leadership: And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. (6) When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." (7) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have

rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” (8) Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” (9) Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” (10) And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”

- a. This portion of scripture teaches us much about the heart of godly leadership. Our portion opens up with Samuel about to commit the same mistake Israel had committed. Israel had wanted a king like the other nations. They wanted a king that projected confidence by his mere appearance. When Samuel sees Eliab, he is immediately struck by Eliab’s impressive looks and physique. If Samuel is impressed by such a man, God is not.
  - i. Our text underscores the perils of our first impressions. God had told Samuel that he had **seen a king among Jesse's sons**. Samuel sees Eliab and assumes that God's anointed was before him. But God immediately instructs Samuel not to look at what he can see; what a man sees does not matter, for man sees with the eyes, but God sees the heart.
    1. God tells Samuel that Eliab was rejected. God’s rejection of Eliab saves Israel from future ruin. Eliab is just another Saul; Eliab is created in Saul’s image, after his likeness.

If God at this point had not rejected Eliab, Israel would have suffered Saul - Part II.

2. This text contains a warning to you and me; it reveals our need; it shows us the discernment we lack. Only God's wisdom is adequate for directing His kingdom. There is at least one thing we can seek to do: beware of the impressiveness of external appearances.

a. **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight.

b. Notice the choosiness of God. He rejects every one of David's brothers. David's brothers were impressive men but men with hearts not completely loyal or devoted to God. None of David's brothers would be an accurate representation of the coming savior who would completely be devoted to God's people. Therefore, none of David's brothers can be king.

6. Verse 11-12: God chooses the things that are not: Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." (12) And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

a. **The youngest remains, but behold; he is keeping the sheep.** David was the youngest and therefore tasked with the job that no one wanted. He was a

keeper of the sheep. David's father, never expecting greatness from his youngest son, never invited David to the feast. David was small and least esteemed among his family, and this would be amplified in the minds of Israel.

i. Beloved, what can we expect from a boy that spends his days following and feeding sheep. Surely no one would choose this boy as the next king of Israel.

1. It is such a man that God calls so that when He does work through such a man, the glory will rightly be given to God.

2. We read in **1 Corinthians 1:25-29** For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

b. What did Samuel think when he first saw David. Whatever it was, he was not impressed as he had been with Eliab. At the sight of Eliab, Samuel was sure that Lord's anointed was before his very eyes. He was ready and anxious to anoint Eliab. However, when

David came in, Samuel remains silent. God says, “**Arise, anoint him, for this is he.**” Samuel must have been stunned regarding God’s choice of a new king. How could this boy save Israel?

i. Perhaps at no time did the living God make a more astonishing choice than in the case of David’s Greater Son. What a similarity we have with David and Jesus Christ. Jesus, in no way, resembled the expectation of the people of God. He was born under questionable circumstances to a poor family. He came humbly and there was no fanfare. His appearance was ordinary and mundane. The bible tells us in **Isaiah 53:2** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

1. Beloved, the beauty of Christ is not an outward beauty. The beauty of Christ is His humbleness, submission, and love. If Christ is lovely, and He is, then that beauty is the inward manifestation of the very heart of God’s love for sinners.

a. **Romans 5:8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. My soul loves God because He first loved my soul.

7. Verse 13: We need God the Holy Spirit: Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

a. **Commentary**: God chooses David for kingship and equips him for that very work. He appoints a servant to a task but at the same time gives that servant what he needs to fulfill the task. The gift of God's Spirit is not merely gracious; it is severe. The spirit touches David no sooner than David is catapulted into endless trouble--Saul's envy, anger, and plots. David, the man with the Spirit, will be hunted and betrayed, trapped and escaping, hiding in caves, living in exile, driven to the edge.

i. So it was for David's Son and David's Lord. What could be more encouraging than seeing the Spirit coming down as a dove to Him? What could be more warming than that familiar voice: "You are my Son, the One I love; I am delighted with you"? And then what happens? The Spirit drives him out. The wilderness. Temptation. The enemy. Wild beasts.

ii. And the servants of David's Lord find the same pattern.

1. **Acts 14:22** strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

- iii. If we remember David and his Greater Son, we understand that this conflict is not a sign of our displeasure but His discipline. The wilderness is not the sign of the Spirit's absence but the scene of his presence. God treats us as Sons.
- b. So as Christians, may God the Holy Spirit ever guide us. In the midst of trials, persecution, and temptations, may the Holy Spirit do His perfect work in us.
  - i. **Ephesians 1:13-14** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

#### 8. Benediction:

- a. **Ephesians 1:16-18** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

### **Public Reading of Scripture Deuteronomy 10:12-22**