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VA 10A Israel's First Two Kings

1 Samuel 8:4–22; 10:1, 17–27; 15:10–11; 16:1–23; 2 Samuel 2:4

God blessed His servant Samuel by letting Samuel hear His voice. Samuel was able to talk to God and tell people what God said.

One day the people asked Samuel to talk to God. “We want a king!” they said. “All the other countries around us have kings, so we want one too.” They wanted Samuel to choose a king for them.

Samuel knew this was a bad idea, and he said so. “If God gives you a king, then you will be unhappy. You will have to pay money to the king. Some of your children will have to go serve the king in his house. Are you really sure you want this?”

“Yes!” they said. So Samuel prayed and asked God what he should do.

God allowed the people to have a king. His name was Saul. Saul was tall and handsome. He looked like a good choice. Samuel gathered all the people together and poured oil on Saul’s head. This was the way of telling everyone that Saul was the king. All the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

Even though King Saul LOOKED like a good choice, he was not! King Saul disobeyed God! God told Samuel that He would choose a new king. He sent Samuel

to talk with Jesse, a man who lived in the city of Bethlehem. One of Jesse’s sons would become the new king.

Jesse lined up seven of his eight sons from oldest to youngest. Samuel looked at the first son. He thought, “This young man looks like he’d make a great king.” But the Lord had not chosen the first son. God said, “Don’t look at the outside. I look at things differently from the way people look at things. People look at faces, but I look into the heart.” Then Samuel looked at the second son. “Maybe the second son would be a good king,” he thought. But the Lord had not chosen the second son. Samuel looked at the third son, but the Lord had not chosen the third son either. Finally, all seven sons passed by Samuel. But the Lord had not chosen any of them!

Samuel asked, “Do you have any other sons?” Jesse answered, “Yes, there is still my youngest son, David. He’s watching the sheep.” Samuel asked Jesse to send for David.

When David came in from the fields, the Lord told Samuel, “He is the one to be the new king.” So Samuel poured oil on David’s head, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. David became a musician for King Saul. After King Saul died, David became the new king.