

King Saul's reign over Israel lasted about forty years and was marked with many acts of disobedience for which the Lord rejected him. One of the first acts of disobedience was his unlawful sacrifice. Though he was neither a prophet nor a priest, rather than waiting on Samuel to bring God's instruction and offer sacrifice, Saul took it upon himself to offer sacrifice to the Lord on behalf of the people (*1 Sam. 13:8-10*). Among all of Saul's sins, this was his greatest offense. Lifted up with pride, he sought to come before God without the appointed priest and sacrifice. It had been well established in the Law that only God's appointed priest and sacrifice could be accepted (*Heb. 5:1-5; 8:8-12; 10:11-14*). This prescribed way of worship pictures our need of Christ as our only High Priest and sacrifice (*Rom. 3:19-26*). *"For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* (*1 Tim. 2:5*). To come before God any other way but Christ is to come before Him without a righteousness by which God justifies His people - Christ, the Lord our Righteousness. The Lord rejected Saul as king, and in God's sovereign providence, this paved the way for David to become king.

Notice how God said He *"repented that He had made Saul king over Israel (15:11,35)*. But in *15:28-29*, we find that God does NOT repent. How do we reconcile this? Many times in Scripture human attributes are assigned to God, not literally, but to make a point. Repentance is assigned to God, not to say that He changes His mind or purpose, but to show how much He hates sin. God is immutable. All of this was in accordance with His purpose that cannot change. It was always God's purpose to take the kingdom away from Saul and give it to David, God's anointed (*1 Sam. 15:28; 16:1*).

(1 Sam. 16:1-13) - This is the account of the Lord revealing His appointed king, David, one of the sons of Jesse. Recall that Jesse was the son of Obed who was the son of Boaz and Ruth (*Ruth 4:17-22*). Here we see two great Scriptural revelations: (1) David as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Shepherd-King of Israel (*Psalms 23; 24*), and (2) the human lineage of Christ beginning to be realized in the line of Judah as prophesied (*Gen. 49:8-12*) and narrowed to the line of King David (*Matt. 1:1-6; Rom. 1:1-4; Rev. 22:16*). Christ was prophesied by Isaiah to be *"a rod out of the stem of Jesse"* who would establish righteousness by His death for His sheep, and how He would rule over His people (spiritual Israel) and bring peace between them and God (*Isa. 11:1-6*). So, this is all in keeping with the sovereign, wise, and unchanging purpose, will, and counsel of God (*Eph. 1:9-11*).

The Lord told Samuel to go to *"Bethlehem"* (also called *Bethlehem-Ephrathah*). This would later be identified as the city of David where the Messiah would be born (*Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-4, 10-15; John 7:40-42*). Later, Jerusalem would also be called the city of David as this was where David reigned as king (*2 Sam. 5:7*). Christ Who is our Shepherd-King came out of Bethlehem as to His sinless humanity, and He reigns as King over the new Jerusalem, which is His eternal kingdom populated by all sinners whom He has saved by God's grace (*Gal. 4:26; Rev. 3:12; 21*). All this speaks of the PERSON of the Shepherd-King Who is Christ the Lord. He is both God and man in one PERSON (*Matt. 1:21,23; John 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16*), and He earned the right to rule in His mediatorial glory as the Savior and Ruler of His people.

Jesse brought all of his sons except the youngest, David, for Samuel to see. As Samuel looked at them, he thought, *"Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him"* (*16:6*). But the Lord told him, *"Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart"* (*16:7*). Recall that the Lord had told Samuel that His choice for king was one *"better than"* Saul (*15:28*). It is true that David's heart was better than Saul's, but we must understand that God does not choose people because of any

inherent goodness. All of us, including David, are sinners who have nothing to recommend us unto God (*Rom. 3:10-23*). All unregenerate people, including David in his natural state, have evil hearts when it comes to salvation and a right relationship with God (*Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18; 1 Cor. 2:14*). If David's heart was good before God, it was because of God's grace in giving him a new heart, a regenerate heart of faith and repentance (*Ezek. 36:26-27*).

God chose His people to save before the foundation of the world without any consideration of who they would be or what they would do (*Rom. 9:10-15*). Salvation is all of grace based on the righteousness of Christ freely imputed to God's people and which they receive by God-given faith. If there is any goodness in any of us, it is grace, and all of grace. The Lord first identified David as "*a man after HIS own heart*" (*13:14*). The heart, love, grace, and mercy of God is the source and first cause of any goodness that God gives His people. David had qualities of character that we all desire and admire, but it was (and is) ALL OF GOD'S GRACE! But David was also a sinner who had no righteousness before God but the righteousness of his Savior imputed to him. The grace that was in David's heart was the fruit of Christ's obedience unto death as David's Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer (*2 Sam. 23:5*). David was (and is) a sinner saved by grace. David himself wrote of the blessedness of "*the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile*" (*Psa. 32:1-2; Rom. 4:6-8*).

David's physical appearance as described in *16:12* is typical of our Savior's beauty and glory as our Shepherd-King. Consider how John described Him in *Revelation 1:12-16*. Christ is the very embodiment of the glory of God (*2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 1:19; 2:9*). David's anointing of God as described in *16:13* is typical of Christ anointing by the Father in the midst of His brethren whom He came to save (*Isa. 61:1-3; Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 4:1,18*).

(1 Sam. 16:14-23) - David was brought before Saul from whom "*the Spirit of the LORD departed*" and who was troubled by an evil spirit. Saul was under God's judgment for his sins. This would be the way of all of us if not for the grace of God in Christ. Christ, our Shepherd-King, took our judgment for us on the cross and gave us His righteousness as the result (*2 Cor. 5:19-21*). God had given David the gift of music and psalms through which he comforted Saul when he was troubled. Christ is not only our Shepherd-King, He is also our sweet Psalmist Who brings the music of the Gospel, Who sings peace to our hearts, and Who has put a song within our hearts to trust, worship, and follow Him (*Rev. 5:6-14*). David's music could only sooth Saul's troubled mind temporarily, but Christ's music soothes our troubled minds eternally (*John 14:27; 16:33; Rom. 7:24-25; Col. 3:1-4,15*).

Notice the description of David given to Saul by his servant in *16:18* - This applies to David in a limited sense; for, again, we know that David was a sinful man who needed salvation by God's grace). But if we see David as a type of Christ, we can see that all of these qualities apply to Christ, our Shepherd-King, in the perfection of His glory eternally. "*Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite*" - This is Christ Person as Godman, the Messiah, Who has come to save His people from their sins (*Matt. 1:21,23*). "*That is cunning in playing*" - Christ is skillful, i.e. able, to do what He was sent to do (*Heb. 7:25*). "*And a mighty valiant man, and a man of war*" - He is a Man of courage Who willingly went to war against sin, Satan, and the world to save His people and bring them to glory. "*And prudent in matters*" - He is all-knowing and wise in matters of truth and judgment. "*And a comely Person*" - To the unregenerate He has no beauty (*Isa. 53:2-3*), but to all who have been born again and given spiritual eyes, He is the beauty of God's glory (*Psa. 27:4; John 1:14*). "*And the LORD is with Him*" - Both the Father and the Holy Spirit were with the Son incarnate and bore Him up under the pressures and persecution He endured to accomplish righteousness for us (*Matt. 3:16-17; John 1:34*).