

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

Turn to Romans 15

In part 1 of this series, we learned about the purpose of the Hebrew Bible for those who have believed since the day of Pentecost in the 1st century. It is necessary to review this again.

Romans 15:4

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for **our instruction**, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The Revised English Bible is a bit clearer:

4 The scriptures written long ago were all written for **our instruction**, in order that through the encouragement they give us **we may maintain our hope with perseverance** (*endurance*).

Turn to 1 Samuel 8

These records from the Hebrew bible that we are about to read are written for OUR instruction so that we may be encouraged and actively maintain our hope with endurance.

The Hebrew Bible is NOT a history textbook. Although it contains historical accounts, it is not written as a history textbook; that is not its purpose, as we have read. It is a spiritual book, written for our instruction!

The events recorded in the Hebrew bible are not necessarily in chronological order. Get used to this; we are not reading a history textbook. The western mind often has difficulty with this and becomes frustrated when a narrative is not presented in chronological order. The reason is one of expectation and training. We have been trained from childhood to expect history and stories to be presented in a particular manner. When we approach a book, we have been trained to have certain expectations regarding the content of the book before we even open it.

The Bible was not originally addressed to a western audience, but an eastern, an oriental audience. As such, we cannot confuse this book with a history textbook. Learn not project your western ideas and expectations upon the Bible. Change your expectations; this is one reason why you should know and remember its purpose.

Generally, a history textbook, authored by man, will record known, documented events in chronological order. It does not and cannot record the causes behind the events. It does not and cannot record the real reasons why or how events were initiated.

The Bible, which is authored by God, is written by revelation; words of knowledge, wisdom and by spiritual discernment or judgment. It can and does show the causes behind the events that are recorded. For an example, let's reexamine the record in 1 Samuel 8 regarding how the kingdom came about, how it was initiated.

1 Samuel 8:1

1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel.

Now we know from a previous record, in 1 Samuel 3, that Samuel was a prophet, a spokesman for God. "When Samuel became old" does not indicate the reason why, it indicates when this event happened. Samuel functioned as God's Agent among the believers. As an Agent for God, he did not make decisions haphazardly. Here we can discern the spirit of God upon Samuel in operation. It is revelation that initiated his decision to make his sons judges over Israel.

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

1 Samuel 8:2

2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

Here we can again discern the spiritual reasons for these events. We know that bribes and the perversion of justice is caused by the operation of what is called “perverse” spirits. The spiritual blindness which is a consequence of bribes is caused by spirits of “slumber”. The planning and evil intent behind those giving the bribes is initiated by spirits of “iniquity”.

In these three verses we have discerned the spirit of God in operation and the spirits of the devil in operation, opposing the spirit of God.

Generally, it is not a requirement to be able to name off what spirits are in operation in a given situation. If you need to know, God can show you. In addition, do not get wrapped up in these names I have used as there is nothing sacred about these names. For example, “Slumber” can just as easily be called “blindness”; “iniquity” could be called “thinking evil” or “evil inventions”. The point is that, as needed, you discern and understand the spiritual forces at work in a given situation.

1 Samuel 8:4

4 Then **all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah**

5 and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

In verses 4 and 5, the acts of the elders are recorded, but not the real reason for their actions. The elders give a plausible reason, but they could be covering up the real reason.

1 Samuel 8:6

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

Samuel was not at peace with this demand or the words used to express their demand; he was not pleased with it. In order to see his way forward, as God's Agent, he went to God for the answer to this situation. He did not rely upon his five senses.

1 Samuel 8:7

7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected me from being king over them.**

8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you.

Now God reveals the real reasons for the actions of the elders. He reveals the spirits moving in the background which are behind the demands of the elders and the perversion of justice. These spirits are called “spirits of whoredom”, but could also be called “religious” spirits. Since these elders have been overcome by the attack, they are also under the control of spirits of “bondage” or “slavery”. The attack

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

on the elders was carried out with “deceiving” or “lying” spirits.

The response to all this is revealed by God, who says “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you...”. This is wisdom communicated to the man of God on how to move forward in this situation.

Now you know the spiritual causes behind the actions of the elders of Israel and Samuel the prophet. Often times, events in the Hebrew bible are influenced by other events which shed more light upon the event being examined. For example, the account of Sameul's sons taking bribes is not the last word on the subject (see 1 Samuel 12). We will see more examples of this as we read about King David.

Turn to 1 Samuel 9

One other issue that needs to be handled right now is the Hebrew idiom of permission. This is a figure of speech that was used by the Hebrews. Often times the literal words they used indicated that God does something that is actually caused by the devil. We will see this later I Samuel, where the expression “a harmful spirit from God” is used.

In Exodus 23:13 it is written:

13 “Pay attention to all that I have said to you, and make no mention of the names of other gods, nor let it be heard on your lips.

In Joshua 23:7

7 that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them,

And finally, Deuteronomy 12:2, 3

2 You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

3 You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place.

In the everyday speech of the believers, they were not to mention the names of the idols which were worshiped. These names were also names of devil spirits. The idiom of permission enabled the people to comply with this command.

In part 1 of this teaching series, we ended with Samuel sending the elders back to their homes. He would select the king that was to rule over them.

1 Samuel 9:15

15 Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel:

16 “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.”

17 When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, “Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.”

By revelation, Samuel recognized the man that God had chosen to be king. God showed him who the man was. He also gave Samuel the wisdom on how to make this known to the man and then to the nation.

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

1 Samuel 9:26

26 Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, “Up, that I may send you on your way.” So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street.

27 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.”

1 Samuel 10:1

1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, “Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.

Samuel gives the announcement to Saul and anoints him. Then he gives Saul information, signs which will confirm his selection as king.

1 Samuel 10:2

2 When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel’s tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, ‘The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, “What shall I do about my son?” ’

3 Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.

4 And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand.

5 After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying.

6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

7 Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

8 Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do.”

9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

To accomplish his calling as king, Saul required holy spirit upon him. God made sure that Saul's calling is confirmed and that he would be equipped with whatever he needed in order to fulfill this calling. This was a life changing event for Saul!

Next, Samuel must present Saul, the king, to the elders and leaders of the nation of Israel.

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

1 Samuel 10:17

17 Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah (*this included Saul*).

18 And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’”

19 But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.” (*this would be the leadership and elders*)

20 Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot.

21 He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 So they inquired again of the LORD, “Is there a man still to come?” and the LORD said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

23 Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.

24 And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

25 Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home.

26 Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched.

27 But some worthless fellows said, “How can this man save us?” And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

This was the beginning of the reign of Saul. He was selected by God, who told his Agent of his selection, by revelation. Samuel anointed the man, Saul, and informed him of his new assignment. Then Saul was identified to the leadership of Israel.

Fast forward some 27 years later, to 1 Samuel 15. In verse 23, Samuel is speaking to Saul. Even though Samuel is subject to the king, Samuel remains a visionary prophet who continues to be responsible to speak the words of God. Here he has the responsibility to speak some very hard words to Saul, the king.

1 Samuel 15:23

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.”

24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”

25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may worship the LORD.”

26 And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

1 Samuel 15:27

27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore.

28 And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

How would you like to be Samuel? He is in a very difficult and dangerous position.

Although this announcement affects Saul personally, it also affects his family, his first-born son in particular. Not only has the kingdom been taken from Saul, but it has been taken from his family as well.

Now Saul is in a tight spot (a difficult position). He does not have God's backing for his rulership any more. However, his rule does not come to an end right then and there. He continues to command the army and his administration continues to function as it did before. Saul is not going to resign, he is not going away without a fight, but he does know that the kingdom has been torn from him and his family. He knows that the words of Samuel do not fall to the ground, but they do come to pass.

The record continues:

1 Samuel 16:1

1 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.”

2 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.”

God gives Samuel another difficult task. He must do what would be considered high treason against king Saul, by anointing another king! Samuel does not quit, he does not complain, but he does discuss his very real concerns with God. So, God gives him a “cover-story”.

This brings up another important issue regarding walking by the spirit. When a you are walking by the spirit, what you are doing by revelation is no one else's business. You do not answer to any one else but your heavenly Father who gave you your assignment. As we will see in these records regarding king David, there will be times that the man of God has to hide what he is doing from other, prying eyes.

This is not deception any more than wearing clothes is deceptive. Generally, if you are given an assignment by revelation, you just carry out the assignment as directed; you are under no obligation to reveal what is going on.

In this case, when Samuel gets to Bethlehem and invites Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice, God will give him more directions.

1 Samuel 16:4

4 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.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

Samuel continued to function as a man of God. The elders of the city had no idea why he was there. He could be there to handle some issue and set things straight. Or he could be visiting for some other, more peaceable reason. So, he calms the elders and invites them along with Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice.

I Samuel 16:6

6 When they (Jesse and his sons) 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.”

11 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.”

Up to this point in the record, we have no idea who the youngest son is. He is not named yet.

1 Samuel 16:13

13 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.

Finally, after the holy spirit comes upon the young man, he is named; it is David.

Given the previous record of the anointing of Saul, we know that Samuel carries out everything that God instructs him to do. Although it is not stated, as the life of David develops it would be reasonable to conclude that he knew what the anointing was all about. He was anointed among his brothers, so they knew what was going on. The record does not indicate if the elders of Bethlehem were informed of this anointing. One thing for sure, David was not presented to the nation as king.

Samuel came, anointed David, finished the sacrifice and then returned home. David was not exactly on his own, he had the spirit of God upon him.

That morning, when Jesse and his sons woke up, they all knew their jobs and their place in the family and in society. They went about their day, minding their own business, but later, Samuel show up unexpectedly with his horn of oil. Suddenly, the unasked for anointing and selection of David as king brought about massive changes for David, Jesse and his family.

Eliab was the first-born and heir of Jesse. His younger brothers and all his sisters worked for Eliab. All this has changed. Since David is king, they all work for HIM. Remember Samuels prophecy regarding the king? He said “...you shall be his slaves”.

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

Up until this day, David's life, thoughts and goals centered around his duties as dictated to him by his father and elder brother. Their vision for the family was top priority. His job was to carry out the tasks assigned to him.

In a moment of time this all changed. Now David is the one who must acquire, understand and carry out God's vision for the entire 12 tribes of Israel. This vision must be carried out in an international arena.

David must establish his rulership wisely so that it is carried on by his heirs from generation to generation. Previously, the time span of his goals was not much more than day-to-day. Now the time span of his goals for the nation and his throne is multi-generational.

He must be a visionary leader and administrator. The nation will look to him for leadership and direction.

As king he is to lead the army into battle. If he decides to go to war, he is the point man on the front lines.

He is the ultimate judge in the country, who is expected to handle all the difficult cases that no one else wants to handle.

These are just some of the responsibilities that have suddenly been given to David. He is just a 17 year old with no physical resources, no name recognition, no social standing. He has not gone through the "king training program". He has not even been through a holy spirit training program! Yet here he is, God's anointed king of Israel.

What would you do? How would you respond to this calling?

The scriptures do not reveal what went on in the family of Jesse that night or the following days. As we will see, they grew to accept what had happened.

The next verses of this chapter are a brief summary of what happens to David after his anointing. Then chapter 17 follows with some details which take place during the period of time covered by this summary.

1 Samuel 16:14

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.

15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. *(This is an example of the idiom of permission. The Hebrews ascribed this affliction to God as the evil spirit was allowed to torment Saul)*

16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre *(a musical stringed instrument, like a small harp)*, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me."

18 One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him."

This is how the suggestion was made. One of Saul's servants became familiar with David's inspired musical abilities with the lyre. Thus he was able to confidently make this suggestion to the king to relieve him of his affliction.

King David Part 2: Selection Of A King

1 Samuel 16:19

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.”

That young man knew exactly how to locate David and he did so, at the order of the king. Remember Samuel's prophecy that the king would take their sons to serve him.

1 Samuel 16:20

20 And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul.

21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.

22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.”

23 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

David is growing in his abilities to publicly exhibit the power of God which is upon him. He plays inspired music such that it ministers healing to the hearers, even to the extent that the evil spirit is cast out of the king.

David is turning out to be quite a talented young man. He is extremely athletic, yet a masterful and sensitive musician.

In a short amount of time, this young nobody from nowhere suddenly comes before the king of Israel to personally serve him.

Yet a challenging problem remains – David is actually the real king of Israel.