

1 Samuel 16

In this chapter we meet David, destined to become the second king of Israel. We know that his kingdom will soon eclipse Saul's.

Scripture has many instances of a “second” gaining dominance when the “first” fails to satisfy. In Romans 9 we read of Isaac bearing the promises of Abraham instead of his older half brother Ishmael and Esau, the older child, serving Jacob, the younger.

Hebrews 10 tells us that the new covenant of grace surpasses and replaces the old covenant of the law; “He does away with the first to establish the second.”

The preeminent example is our Lord Jesus Christ, the ‘second’ man. “Thus it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The **first** man was from the earth, a man of dust; the **second** man is from heaven.

Questions for study and discussion:

1. How is this chapter connected to other events in Bethlehem?
2. What traits does David have in common with Saul? How is David different than Saul in ways that make him more suitable to be king?
3. Verse 7 tells us the Lord looks not on the outward appearance, but the heart. Does outward appearance refer only to physical stature or beauty?

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As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven” (1 Corinth 15:45-49).

The pattern is clear. The first is of flesh and temporary; the second is of the Spirit and eternal. Saul's physical stature put him on the throne; David's heart for God will establish his throne forever.

And the nearest example for the believer is birth: The natural birth in the flesh and the second birth into the Spirit. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6). “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

4. What is David's experience with a spirit in this chapter? Saul's?
 5. The anointing in verse 13 is the last recorded action by Samuel. How is it fitting that he takes his farewell here?
 6. Why would the Lord send a harmful spirit to torment Saul?
 7. Does David seek to enter Saul's service? What has led to him being chosen? How can this apply to us?