

Lesson II.

DAVID ANOINTED KING

April 11, 1915

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Soon after the rejection of Saul (see last Lesson, ch. 15: 10-23) Samuel received instructions from the Lord to anoint David as king.

GOLDEN TEXT—Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—1 Samuel 16 : 7
Memorize vs. 12, 13.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—1 Samuel 16 : 4-13. Study 1 Samuel, ch. 16.

4 And Sam^uel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Beth^l-lehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably : I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord : sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eli^ab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.

7 But the Lord said unto Sam^uel, 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.

8 Then Jesse called Abin^adab, and made him pass before Sam^uel. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

Revised Version—1 city came to meet him trembling ; 2 rejected ; 3 And Jesse ; 4 upon ; 5 spirit (small "s") ; 6 mightily.

9 Then Jesse made Sham^mah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

10 3 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Sam^uel. And Sam^uel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these.

11 And Sam^uel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children ? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Sam^uel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him : for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him : for this is he.

13 Then Sam^uel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren : and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Sam^uel rose up, and went to Ram^ah.

*HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—David anointed king, 1 Sam. 16 : 1-13.

T.—David anointed king, 1 Sam. 16 : 14-23.

W.—God's covenant with David, Ps. 89 : 1-9.

Th.—Great promises, Ps. 89 : 18-29.

F.—Known to God, Ps. 139 : 1-12.

S.—A song of thanksgiving, 1 Chron. 16 : 7-22.

Sunday—A king's praise, 1 Chron. 16 : 23-34.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Samuel, though he had obeyed God in telling Saul that God was about to remove him from the kingship, rebelled inwardly. For this he was rebuked by the Lord, and was directed to go to Bethlehem and there



PALESTINIAN SHEEP WITH BROAD TAIL

choose a king from amongst the sons of Jesse. When Samuel objected that Saul would kill him if he was discovered to be taking part in a plan to make a new king, the Lord directed him to go to Bethlehem as if to offer a sacrifice according to his customary practice, saying nothing about his more important errand. A good purpose was concealed for a good purpose. Vs. 1-3.

I. THE SACRIFICE.—4. Samuel . . came to Bethlehem ; a town about 5 miles south of Jerusalem,

built on a rocky ridge and surrounded by higher hills. Ramah, Samuel's home, was about the same distance north of Jerusalem. We may picture Samuel climbing the hill to the gate of the city, leading the heifer for sacrifice, and carrying in his hand the horn of sacred oil used in setting apart priests and kings to their office and made as described in Ex. 30 : 23-25 (see vs. 1, 2). Elders (chief men of the town) . . trembled . . said, Comest thou peaceably ? They were afraid that Samuel might have come to punish some sin in themselves, or in the people of the town.

5. Peaceably . . sanctify yourselves ; make yourselves ready for the sacrifice, by such outward purifications as the washing of the body and clothes, the outward symbols of heart preparation. In such sacrifices the offerers expressed their repentance of sin, their thanksgiving and the yielding of themselves to God. After the fat of the victim had been burned on the altar, the flesh was eaten at the sanctuary by the sacrificer and his family, or, in the present case, by the representatives of the community on whose behalf the sacrifice was presented. The meal was thought of as shared with God, who, in accordance with Eastern ideas of hospitality, thus pledged Himself to be the protector of His guests. He sanctified Jesse and his sons. Samuel saw personally to their preparation. This would enable him to have a private interview with the family before the public services.

II. THE SELECTION.—6-10. These verses tell how seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, and were all in turn rejected. The Lord looketh on the heart. In Saul, God gave the people a king such as they themselves would have chosen, of great stature

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