

A SHEPHERD BOY CHOSEN KING

I Samuel 16:1-13



God had not forgotten that he had said Israel was to have a new king. Saul was still the king, and Samuel was sad when he thought of him.

But a message came from God telling Samuel to go down to Bethlehem, for there he was to find the new king. He was to go to the home of a good man named Jesse, and one of his sons was the man that God had chosen. Jesse's father's name was Obed, and Obed was the son of the young woman Ruth whose story you know.

It was a great day in Bethlehem, and the people wondered why Samuel had come, for he very seldom left his home because he was now an old man. But he told them what God had told him to say,—that he had come to have a service of sacrifice, so they all made ready by prayer and perhaps by sacrifices at home.

One by one Jesse's seven sons came before Samuel, and each one Samuel thought must surely be the right one, but God's voice did not tell him to choose any, and at last he said to Jesse, "Have you any other children," and Jesse said, "Yes," there was the youngest one David, out taking care of the sheep, and he sent for him.

Israel had had one king with a handsome face and an ugly heart, and this time it was to be the heart that was looked at first,—and only God can see that.