

13. King David

Introduction: In the previous story we saw God' miracles as He brought the Israelites out of Egypt to the land He had given to Abraham.

After many years, just as God had promised Abraham, his descendants grew in number. God then gave them many leaders. One of the leaders was named David. This story is about how David became the king of Israel. (Deuteronomy 1:8–10; 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 2 Samuel 5:3)

One day, God talked with one of His messengers, "Go to the city of Bethlehem and find a man named Jesse, I want to choose one of his sons to become the future king of Israel." (1 Samuel 16:1)

This messenger heard what God said, so he went to look for Jesse. When he came to Jesse's house, he saw Jesse's oldest son, so he was quietly thinking to himself, "This must be the one that God wants to choose." (1 Samuel 16:6)

God told this messenger, "No, not this one. When I look at man, I do not look at their appearance, but I look at their heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Then, Jesse's seven sons came one by one in front of this messenger, but none of them was God's chosen. The messenger then asked Jesse, "Are all of your sons present here?" (1 Samuel 16:8–11)

Jesse replied him, "I still have the youngest one. He is now taking care of sheep. His name is David." (1 Samuel 16:11)

They went to bring David back. When David came before the messenger, God told the messenger, "This is the one. In the future I will make him the king of Israel." (1 Samuel 16:11–12)

Before David's father and brothers, the messenger poured oil on David's head. This act was a symbol to prove that in the future God will make him king. From that day on, God's spirit was with David always. (1 Samuel 16:13)

After many years, David really did become the king of Israel. God gave peace to David's country. (2 Samuel 5:2–5; 7:1)

One day, God sent His other messenger to tell David, "When I chose you to become the king of Israel, you were just a shepherd boy. Since then I have protected you, and have given you peace. Now, I promise you that your descendants will continue to inherit your position as king. If they do bad things, I will use other countries to punish them and fight with them. But my love for them will not change. Your country will remain forever." (2 Samuel 7:8–17)

When David heard what God told him, he came before God, saying, "My Lord, my God, only you are God, your word is the truth, is trustworthy. Let what you have said be done; may my descendants be blessed forever." (2 Samuel 7:28–29)