

The Gospel According to David

The King God Chooses

1 Sam. 16:1-14, Psalm 23

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September 20th, 2026



Every story in Scripture is a chapter in a larger story, and every chapter is leading to one person – Jesus.

Christ the King in His Divinity is LIKE David.

- Anointed by God, not self-appointed
- Shepherd-king over God's people
- Given an eternal throne
- Sitting, ultimately, on the LORD's own throne

Christ the King in His Humanity is UNLIKE David

- David SINNED grievously. Christ did not
- David's kingdom FRACTURED because of his failure. Christ's cannot be shaken
- David needed ATONEMENT. Christ is the atonement
- David died and stayed DEAD. Christ's body did NOT see death PERMANENTLY

Historical Context of 1 Samuel — Israel got the king they wanted. It wasn't the king they needed.

The theological center: ***"man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (16:7)***

Jesus came as the Good Shepherd, and in essence fulfills the TYPE that is described in ***Psalm 23.***

FROM ***"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me"***

TO ***John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"***

1 Samuel 16:13 CSB, So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully on David from that day forward.

The anointing is REAL yet PRIVATE. He isn't made King yet. Saul still sits on the Throne.

God anoints a King, but doesn't IMPOSE a King. It remains this way in our TIMES and LIVES.

- UNIVERSALLY – Jesus is the King in Heaven. Jesus will be the King on earth.
- PERSONALLY – Jesus is the King in Heaven. But we still proclaim lordship over our lives.

Jesus in His divinity is conceived in the Spirit. Jesus in His Humanity is empowered by the Spirit. Jesus in His Lordship shares the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:3 — "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit"

John 16:13 — "the Spirit of truth... will guide you into all the truth"

Personal ASSESSMENT: You may already believe Jesus is Lord. The Spirit's work now is helping that belief become how you actually live. Where is he doing that in you right now?

The question isn't just 'will you obey him.' It's 'do you trust the one you're obeying enough to actually rest in his leadership?' That's where Psalm 23 has been waiting for us the whole time.

Date: Sept. 20th, 2026

Series: The Gospel According to David

Title: The King God Chooses

Primary Passage: 1 Sam. 16:1-14

Secondary Passage: Psalm 23

Big Question: Can the King who has the right to rule me also be trusted to shepherd me?

Big Idea: The King God chose, the Spirit who empowers, and the Shepherd who leads are all one person, and he can be trusted with your whole life.

Keywords: Type, Divinity, Humanity, King, Anointing, Shepherd, Spirit, Fulfillment, Permanence.

GOING DEEPER – Study Questions

Where has Jesus shown His work around you this week? How did it increase your hope?

Jesus said the whole of Scripture points to him (Luke 24:27). Before today how did you tend to read Old Testament stories like David's; as moral examples ("be brave like David"), or as stories pointing toward someone greater? How might that shift change the way you read your Bible this week?

Christ is like David in his divinity (anointed by God, given an eternal throne) but unlike David in his humanity (sinless, unshaken, undying). Why does it matter that Jesus is both genuinely like David and genuinely unlike him? What would be lost if he were only one or the other?

Israel asked for a king "like the nations" because they were tired and afraid, but Samuel warned it would cost them dearly (1 Sam 8:11-18). Saul was chosen for exactly what the nations valued (his height, his appearance) and it wasn't enough. Where do you find yourself asking God for the kind of solution "everyone else" seems to have, instead of trusting what he is actually offering you?

Read 1 Sam. 1 Samuel 16:14 tells us the Spirit departed from Saul while he continued sitting on the throne — still king in title but no longer operating in God's power. Where might you be "going through the motions" of following Jesus without genuinely relying on the Spirit's power to do it? Be specific.

The Bible says that the King, the Spirit, and the Shepherd can be trusted with your whole life. Psalm 23 pictures that trust as resting even in the valley, not just the pasture. What is one area of your life right now where trusting Christ's leadership feels more like a valley than a green pasture and what would it look like to bring that specific area to him this week?

Around a TABLE:

- **Question:** Where have you felt most afraid this week, ie. afraid you're not enough, afraid you're being overlooked, or afraid God might walk away from you the way the Spirit left Saul?
- **Promise:** In Christ, God's presence isn't contingent the way it was for Saul. His presence and power are permanent. He has promised never to leave or forsake you and has given you his Spirit to confirm and empower that truth.
- **Passage:** Psalm 23:4 — "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."