

Kids' Chronicle

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David becomes Israel's king

By JOE SARNICOLA

The people of Israel were unhappy because they did not have a king to rule over them. The Lord did not want to grant their wish at first. Although Samuel was his spokesperson, the Lord knew they were actually rejecting him as their leader. However, he told Samuel to anoint Saul, a soldier, as the first king of Israel. Samuel gave the Israelites a warning that having a king meant being in his service, but the people insisted they wanted a king.

After winning a battle with the Amalekites, instead of destroying all of bounty as the Lord had commanded, Saul kept many of the valuable items the Israeli army had captured for himself. The Lord became very angry, and decided to remove Saul from his throne.

Samuel confronted Saul with what the Lord had told him. "Saul, why do I see so much of the possessions of the Amalekites here?"

Saul was afraid to tell Samuel the truth, so he said, "My soldiers kept these things to offer up to the Lord."

"The Lord would rather have your obedience than your sacrifice," said Samuel. "Because you disobeyed the Lord, he is rejecting you as king."

At that point, Saul was no longer king of Israel.

The Lord then said to Samuel, "Go to the town of Bethlehem with a bottle of olive oil. Find a man named Jesse. I have chosen one of his sons to be the next king. When you find him, anoint him in my name."

"My Lord, if I do that, Saul may be-



come jealous and try to kill me."

"Tell the people there that you have come to offer a sacrifice, and invite Jesse."

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he was greeted by the elders of the town. Samuel was well known as being the chosen man of God, and his anger was greatly feared.

"Have you come in peace?" the elders asked.

Samuel answered, "Yes. Tonight a sacrifice will be offered here for the Lord. Purify yourselves and offer it with me."

Samuel found Jesse and told him to bring his sons with him to the ceremony.

Jesse came with his sons and Samuel instructed each one to appear before him. Eliab stood up first. The Lord said to Samuel, "Eliab is handsome, but I judge by the heart of a man, and not his appearance."

Six more of Jesse's sons took their turn before Samuel, but not of them was

the one God had chosen.

"Do you have any other sons?" asked Samuel.

Jesse replied, "I have one other son, the youngest. But he is home tending my sheep."

"Send for him," said Samuel. "We cannot offer the sacrifice until he is here." David arrived, a young, but healthy and courageous man.

"This is the one," said Samuel. "This is the next king of Israel."

Samuel anointed David as king immediately in front on everyone who was there. And the Lord was with David from that day forward.

Read more about it: 1 Samuel 15 & 16

Q&A

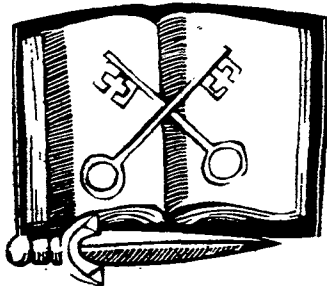
1. Why was God angry with Saul?
2. What does God look at, if not the appearance of a person?

Bible Accent

When the Lord gave Moses instructions about the first oil to be used for anointing, he was very specific about its preparation and care. "This oil must be not used on ordinary men. It is holy." (Exodus 30:32)

The kings of Israel, as part of their coronation, had this oil poured over them. This ritual was usually performed by a priest or religious leader, and symbolizes the blessing of God on the king. When Samuel anointed Saul, he said, "The Lord anoints you as ruler of his people Israel." (1 Samuel 10:1)

In the New Testament, there are references to anointing being done for other purposes. James 5:14 recommends using oil when praying for sick people. Matthew 26:6-12 recounts the story where Jesus was anointed with valuable perfumed oil. Jesus said, "What she did was to pour this perfume on my body to get me ready for burial."



Bible Trivia

Which son of David succeeded him as King? 1 Kings 1

Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by April 13, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Ann Logan of St. Ann's School in Hornell. She knew the other New Testament book written by Luke was the "Acts of the Apostles."

Word Scramble!

Unscramble the words that are associated with kings. Answers can be found on page 12.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| 1. A royal seat | ----- | tehnor |
| 2. Worn on the head | ----- | wornc |
| 3. A royal color | ----- | leppru |
| 4. Something to hold | ----- | teepcrs |
| 5. Daughter of a king | ----- | spsrainc |
| 6. A king's wife | ----- | uneqe |
| 7. Territory | ----- | knigndo |
| 8. Home | ----- | celapa |
| 9. Oiled | ----- | detonina |

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