

# Anointing of David



## Primary Passages

- 1 Samuel 16:1–13 – Private anointing by **Samuel** in Bethlehem
- 2 Samuel 2:1–7 – Anointed king of **Judah** at Hebron
- 2 Samuel 5:1–5 – Anointed king over all **Israel** at Hebron

## 1 Context: What leads up to the anointing?

- Saul has been rejected for disobedience (1 Sam 15)
- God withdraws His favor from Saul
- The kingdom will be given to “a man after His own heart” (1 Sam 13:14)
- Samuel is grieving over Saul’s failure
- God sends Samuel to **Bethlehem**, to **Jesse’s family**

### Key themes

- God’s choice vs human choice
- Transition from outward appearance to heart obedience
- God continues His plan despite failed leadership ✨

## 2 Narrative Flow: What actually happens?

Here is the story in sequence:

1. God tells Samuel to stop mourning Saul and go to Jesse
2. Samuel fears Saul’s reaction—God instructs a sacrificial cover
3. The elders of Bethlehem tremble when Samuel arrives
4. Jesse’s sons pass before Samuel:
  - Eliab (oldest) impresses Samuel
  - God says “**Man looks on outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart**” (1 Sam 16:7)
5. Seven sons pass. None are chosen.
6. Samuel asks if there is another son
7. David is called from **shepherding the flock**
8. David arrives—described as **ruddy, with beautiful eyes, and handsome**
9. God says: “**Arise, anoint him; for this is he**”
10. Samuel anoints David in the midst of his brothers
11. The **Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward**
12. The Spirit departs from Saul, and a distressing spirit troubles him

## 3 Historical & Cultural Background

- **Anointing = commissioning** by pouring oil
- Oil symbolizes:
  - consecration
  - empowerment
  - God’s Spirit
  - setting apart for sacred purpose
- Anointing was used for:
  - priests (Exod 28:41)
  - prophets (1 Kgs 19:16)
  - kings (1 Sam 10:1; 16:13)

### Shepherd background matters

- Shepherd = protector, provider, guide
- Common royal metaphor in the ANE and in the Bible (Ps 23; Ezek 34)
- David is shaped in obscurity, not palace training

# Anointing of David

## 4 Language & Word Study

### Hebrew: “anoint”

מִשְׁׁחָה – mashach

- to smear, anoint, consecrate

### Hebrew: “anointed one”

מָשִׁיחַ – mashiach

- Messiah
- Used of kings and priests
- Becomes title for **the promised King**

### Spirit language

“The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David” (1 Sam 16:13)

- same phrase pattern as:
  - Samson (Judg 14:6)
  - Saul earlier (1 Sam 10:10)
- implies empowerment for mission

## 5 Theology: What does this moment *mean*?

### God chooses the unlikely

- youngest
- overlooked
- working in obscurity
- not the obvious brother

### Heart over appearance

1 Samuel 16:7 is central:

Man looks at outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

### Kingship redefined

- Saul = human criteria: tall, impressive
- David = God's criteria: **heart after God**

### Spirit-led leadership vs flesh-led leadership

- Saul: Spirit departs
- David: Spirit rests upon him from that day forward

### Messianic trajectory

- David becomes prototype of **future King**
- Covenant follows in 2 Samuel 7
- Leads directly to Jesus, “Son of David”

## 6 How many anointings did David have?

David is anointed **three times**:

1. **By Samuel** – privately (1 Sam 16)  
→ divine choice
2. **By men of Judah** – Hebron (2 Sam 2)  
→ regional recognition
3. **By all Israel** – Hebron (2 Sam 5)  
→ national kingship

Pattern:

- God chooses first
- People recognize later 
- Delay between calling and fulfillment

# Anointing of David

## 7 Contrast with Saul

Saul	David
Chosen for appearance	Chosen for heart
Disobeys	Repentant when wrong
Spirit departs	Spirit rests
Grieved Samuel	Delights Samuel
Man's king	God's King

## 8 Connections to Jesus the Messiah

### Jesus as Son of David

- born in Bethlehem like David
- Shepherd imagery fulfilled (John 10)
- Anointed by the Spirit at baptism
- Rejected before enthroned
- Receives kingdom in stages:
  - inaugurated
  - resisted
  - consummated at return

Peter applies **Davidaic messiahship** in Acts 2.

## 9 Liturgical & symbolic layers

- Bethlehem = “house of bread”
- Horn of oil vs flask of oil:
  - Saul anointed from flask (fragile kingdom)
  - David from horn (enduring strength)
- Brothers watching:
  - echoes Joseph
  - the overlooked one exalted
- Shepherd → King → Psalmist → Type of Messiah

## 10 Reflection & Application

- God sees what others overlook
- Waiting season is not wasted season
- Private anointing often precedes public recognition
- God prepares leaders in hidden places
- Anointing is for **service**, not status