

## THE ANOINTING OF DAVID

Rev. Donald Rose

Lessons: *I Samuel 16*

The place where David was born, and the place where he was anointed to be king were one and the same. (See *Apocalypse Explained* 449:3.) He was born in Bethlehem and later was anointed in Bethlehem on the day when Samuel went there to pour anointing oil on the head of the Lord's chosen one. The name "Bethlehem" means "house of bread," and it came to be known as the City of David.

Here are two different meanings of the name David. First, David means the Lord Himself. That is why David was born in Bethlehem, and that is why things are said in the Word about him that feel to us as if they are being said about the Lord. For example: "I will raise up one shepherd over them who shall feed them; My servant David, he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd" (*Ezekiel* 34:23, *Doctrine of the Lord* 43). And when David wrote Psalms as he led sheep in the hills near Bethlehem, those Psalms were not just about David, but were in the highest sense about the Lord (*Doctrine of the Lord* 44).

But David in the story can also be about you. When David speaks of needing the Lord's help or being thankful for the Lord's protection, it is picturing your life. The name "David" means "beloved," and it is right for us to know down deeply that the Lord loves us.

That is such a good thought – that the Lord loves us. Sometimes we feel as if we have been forgotten and that the Lord does not know or care about us. Is that one of the reasons the story is so delightful, the story of the day that a young shepherd boy had to be called in from the field? When the fine, proud sons of Jesse (David's brothers) walked before Samuel so that he could single out one to be king, no one thought they should ask the youngest one to come too. Samuel looked at the sons one by one, and he asked whether that was all of them. Then they told him of the youngest. Yes, he was out there caring for the sheep. And Samuel said, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here" (*I Samuel* 16:11).

Remember that Samuel was sent to find the one chosen to be king, but that by himself he could not know who it was. In fact, when the sons of Jesse stood before him, he thought it must be one of them. First he saw the young man named Eliab, and as he looked at him, Samuel thought he was the one to become king. Eliab must have been quite tall and very fine to look at, but the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature. . . ." Then Samuel looked at Abinadab and then Shammah, and then

at the others, until he had seen seven young men. But the Lord does not look at the outward appearance. He looks at the heart.

Let us notice something about David's eyes, and what is said about him in that verse in this chapter when the Lord said to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one" (I *Samuel* 16:12).

When David came in from the field, he also was good to look at, and it seems that there was something striking about his eyes. What does Verse 12 actually say? The Hebrew word *Ayin* is translated "eyes" hundreds of times, but in this one verse some have translated it "countenance." That is not a wrong translation, but it is good to be aware that it is speaking about the eyes (as most translations show). The Writings tell us that the eye is the noblest organ of the face. The eyes have been called the "windows of the soul." Not just the outer feelings, but the inner feelings can be seen in the eyes (*Arcana Coelestia* 4407).

The Lord looks into our hearts and souls. He sees our inner feelings, and leads us just as He did a shepherd boy named David (or "beloved"), who was anointed to be king.

**NOTE:** *In this chapter is the saying:*

***"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***  
*(verse 7)*

*Here a truth shines forth from the Word, a truth that the mind receives quickly and gladly. The Lord looks on the heart.*

*The Lord looks on the use of raising children far more deeply than we do. We often get preoccupied with the outward necessities. But when we are teaching the Word we try to look more deeply with a longer perspective of what life is all about.*