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David is Chosen as King

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# Outward Appearance

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- The Lord looks at the heart, not the outward appearance.
- 1 Samuel 16:1–12
- This passage shows the difference between God's definition of a great leader and the world's definition.
- In verse 7, God specifically differentiated between the outward appearance of strength and the inward character of a person.
- “Height and appearance” represent strength, not necessarily that the world always wants tall leaders.

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# Outward Appearance

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- But “height” does specifically point us back to the character of Saul in contrast. When Saul was chosen as king, the text emphasizes his unusual height (1 Samuel 9:2).
- It also points ahead to contrast David with Goliath. Goliath’s unusual height was also emphasized (1 Samuel 17:4).
- The word Jesse used to describe David translated as “youngest” in the ESV literally means “least.”
- This can mean the least important, the youngest, the smallest or all three.

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# Outward Appearance

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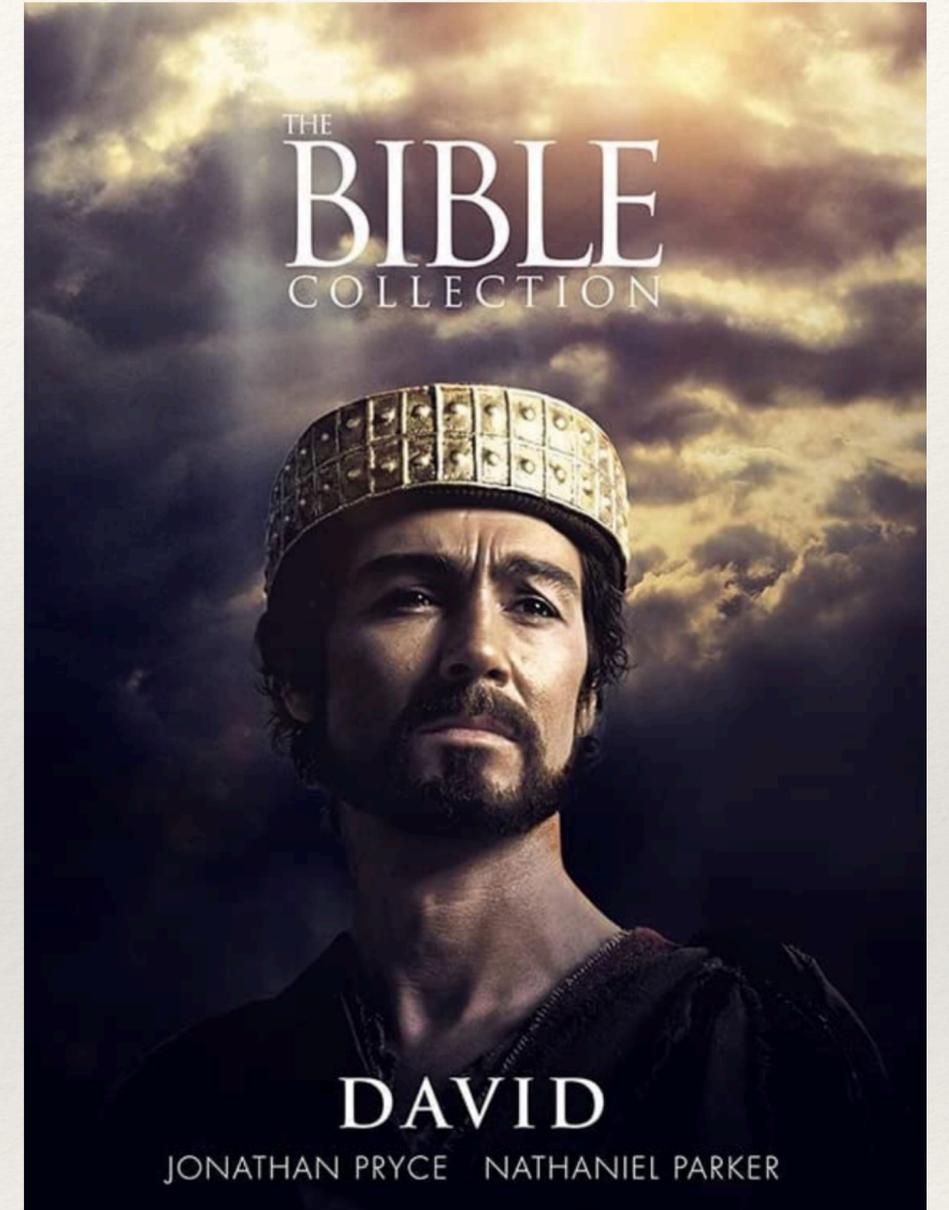
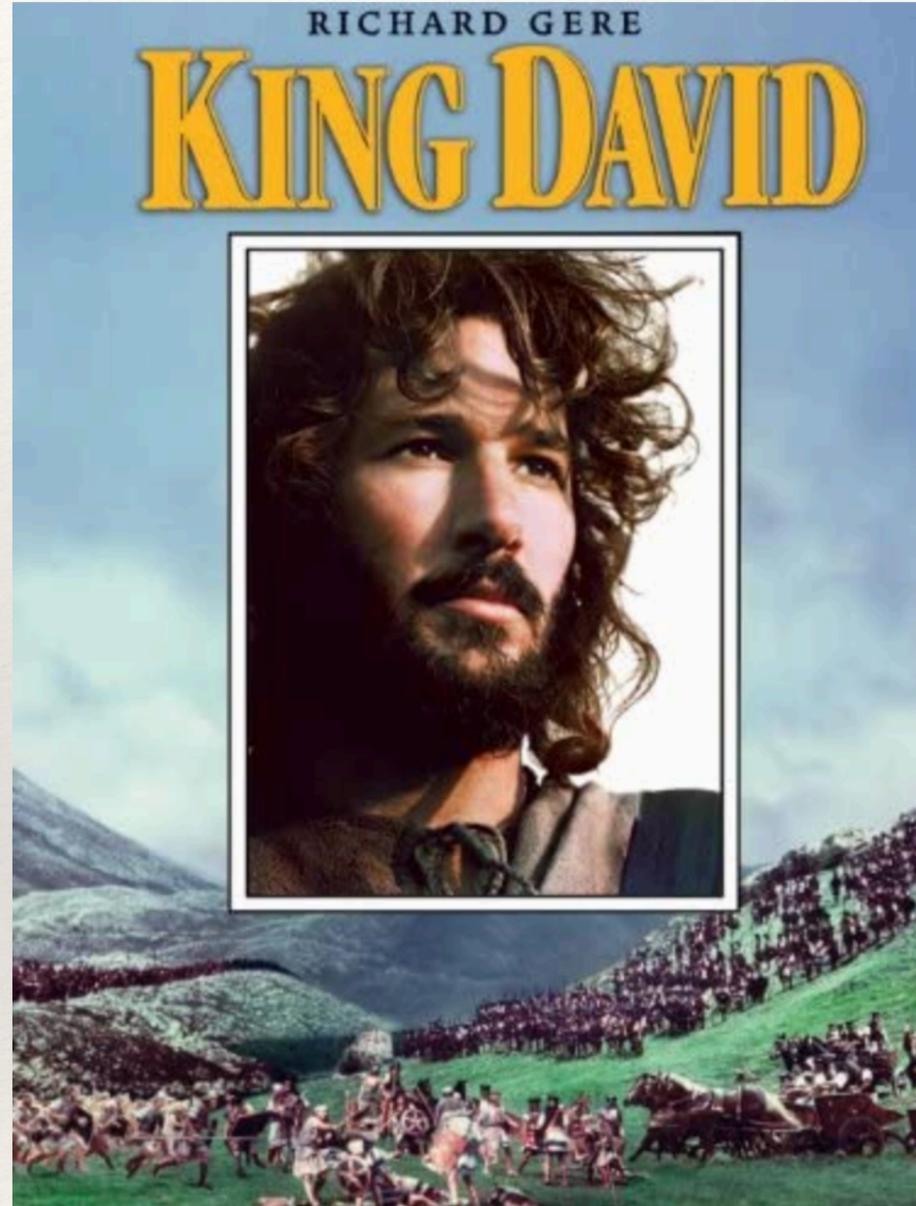
- This combination of the focus on David's being the least (16:11) with God's telling Samuel not to look at his height (16:7) makes an intentional contrast between Saul, the leader God had rejected, and David, the leader He was now choosing (verse 1).
- It's about anything the world thinks of as exceptional in "outward appearance," whether it's great physical strength, success, charisma, fame, intelligence or anything else that makes us think a person has something special that would make a great leader. God says He doesn't look at those outward qualities; He looks at the heart.

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# Outward Appearance

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- If we contrast David and Saul in their external qualities, they are relatively similar. Saul was taller, but both men were described as handsome (1 Samuel 9:2; 16:12), and both were strong and successful in battle.
- In fact, David's great military success made him more popular in the people's eyes than Saul (1 Samuel 18:7, 30).
- David was strong on the outside, too, but God was saying the heart was more important. That's what God was looking for and what we should look for in our leaders, too.





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# Outward Appearance

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- However, this story occurred before David had won any battles, even before he had conquered Goliath.
- If we hadn't grown up hearing stories about David and were reading Samuel through for the first time, we wouldn't know at this point that David became a strong military leader.
- We are introduced to him as a shepherd boy, the least important in his family – so unimportant that when Samuel asked Jesse to present his sons, Jesse didn't even call David in from the fields.

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# Outward Appearance

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- We must read the rest of the story to learn what God saw in David's heart.
- It isn't explained here. It's just implied that it's something deeper than what we see in someone's "outward appearance."
- In Hebrew, the word "heart" refers to more than just our emotions.
- It encompasses the entire inner person – the mind, the will and the emotions.
- It is better translated "inner person," which makes more sense grammatically and helps us see the contrast more clearly.

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# Outward Appearance

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- God wasn't looking for a leader who was more emotional, loving, or compassionate.
- He was making a contrast between the "outward appearance" (who we look like on the outside) and the "inner person" (who we really are on the inside).
- God was looking for someone whose inner person was committed to trusting in Him and following Him.

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# Outward Appearance

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- The Psalms reveal this kind of heart in David.
- He is a man who feels fear and anxiety, yet chooses to put his trust in the Lord (Psalm 56:1–4).
- He understands that suffering helps us grow (Psalm 119:71).
- He not only follows God's law, he delights in it (Psalm 119:92–104; 40:8).
- When he sins, he confesses openly and honestly, then repents and turns back to the Lord (Psalm 51).

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# Outward Appearance

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- David takes refuge in the Lord (Psalm 71:1).
- The Lord is his hope, his strength, and his portion (Psalm 71:5; 59:17; 16:5).
- Perhaps most meaningful of all for David personally, the Lord is his Shepherd, who tenderly cares for him and guides him in the way everlasting (Psalm 23).

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# Outward Appearance

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- Theologians have long applied this statement about God's looking at the heart, not just to what He looks for in a king but to how He looks at all of us.
- God looks beyond the exterior to the inner person.
- No matter what we say or what masks we wear, He knows who we really are.
- God can see beyond the people's great outside appearance, as Jesus said about the Pharisees being whitewashed tombs (Matthew 23:27).

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# Outward Appearance

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- On the other hand, it also means God can see past what the world sees as worthless or unimportant.
- He can see the true beauty and value inside, as Jesus did with the “sinful woman” who anointed His feet (Luke 7:36–50).
- This is why only the Lord can judge us, because only the Lord can see past our exterior to who we really are.

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# Outward Appearance

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- Throughout the remainder of 1 Samuel, we will see contrasts between Saul and David's actions.
- Saul took matters into his own hands; David trusted in the Lord.
- Saul attacked David when he had done nothing wrong, while David refrained from attacking Saul even when he might have deserved it.
- The list goes on.
- The difference in their actions comes from this difference in their hearts.

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# Outward Appearance

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- As Jesus told His disciples, our actions flow out of our hearts (Luke 6:45; Matthew 15).
- God asked Samuel to trust Him in rejecting Saul and choosing David because God knew who David really was on the inside.
- This didn't mean David would do everything perfectly as king.
- He made huge mistakes and committed grave sins.
- But he was a man after God's own heart.

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# Empowers a Leader

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- The Holy Spirit is what empowers a leader, not his own strength.
- 1 Samuel 16:13–14
- God gave His people the rite of anointing as a tangible sign of His choosing leaders.
- When Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.
- Though God said David was a man after His own heart, it wasn't David's heart that empowered him to be a godly king but God's Spirit.

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# Empowers a Leader

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- We see the Holy Spirit empowering people in the Old Testament with:
  - supernatural strength, like Samson (Judges 13–16)
  - wisdom, like Solomon (1 Kings 4)
  - even the ability to create beautiful artwork (Exodus 35:30–35)
- The Spirit empowered ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

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# Empowers a Leader

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- The text tells us that the Holy Spirit left Saul and came upon David.
- This doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit could only be on one leader at a time or only work through one person at a time.
- Moses and Aaron were empowered by the Holy Spirit at the same time, and many of the prophets' ministries overlapped with each other.

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# Empowers a Leader

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- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon someone but then also left that person, as with Samson and Saul (Judges 16:20; 1 Samuel 16:14).
- But in the new covenant, the way the Holy Spirit relates to us is distinctly different. Jeremiah explicitly says the new covenant will not be like the old.
- Instead of just teaching His people the law, God will put the law within them and write it on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33–34).
- God will replace our hearts and put His Spirit within us (Ezekiel 37:14).

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# Empowers a Leader

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- The covenant will no longer be external but internal, the power of the Spirit changing our “inner person” into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Because Christ’s death tore the veil of the Holy of Holies where the Spirit dwelled in the temple, we now have full access to the Spirit with no separation (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:20).
- In the new covenant, the Spirit doesn’t just come upon us, He dwells in us all the time and will never leave (Romans 8:9–11).
- Our bodies are the temples of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

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# Empowers a Leader

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- The Spirit guides us in all truth and speaks supernatural wisdom to our hearts (John 15:26–16:15; 1 Corinthians 2:6–16).
- He sanctifies us and grows His fruit in us (Galatians 5:22–25).
- He empowers us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8) and provides us with spiritual gifts to edify the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:1–11).
- In the new covenant, every believer is empowered by the Spirit to do extraordinary things, not just a special anointed few.

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# Empowers a Leader

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- The contrast here is not only that the Spirit had left Saul and come to David.
- Instead, it is that of all the people in all of Israel, David was the one with the unique ability to soothe Saul's spirit.
- In Hebrew, there is a play on words between "spirit" and "relief" that is untranslatable to English but creates a poetic parallel between the two men.
- This story paints David as a man uniquely gifted of God.

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# Empowers a Leader

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- The fact that it was David's music that calmed the spirit points ahead to the fact that David would write many of the psalms and would consolidate worship at Jerusalem.
- The description of David as "a brave man and a warrior" points ahead to his future military prowess, even before he had conquered Goliath.
- The phrase "the Lord is with him" points to the presence of the Spirit upon him (16:18).

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# Empowers a Leader

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- At this point in the story, Saul was very pleased with David and even made David one of his armor bearers.
- This story sets up the image of David as Saul's loyal, trustworthy servant who did nothing to deserve Saul's later murderous anger toward him (1 Samuel 20:1; 30–34).
- It sets up Saul to be a volatile man who would later react with unreasonable anger and jealousy.
- This passage sets the stage for what was to come.

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/ standing for Christ in a collapsing culture /

**Erwin W. Lutzer**

Bestselling author of *We Will Not Be Silenced*

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# Discernment or Deception?

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- One of his chapters asks the question, Will we be deceived by the language used by the propagandists?
- We use the same words, but other people are using a different dictionary.
- Isaiah 5 warns us, “Woe to those who call evil good.”
- You can only call evil good if you rename the evil, and find good words to camouflage the evil.
- Propaganda: “telling people what they want to hear, then giving them what you want them to have.”

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# Six Ways Language is Manipulated

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- The Use of Evocative Slogans
- Examples: “Make America Great Again” or “Build Back Better.”
- Noam Chomsky - revolution can only be brought about when you have a slogan that is hard to be against.
- Use Language to Create Reality
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* - “War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength.”

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# Six Ways Language is Manipulated

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- Use Words to Suppress the Debate
- A university posted a list of offensive words students and faculty must avoid: *picnic, trigger warning, and even rule of thumb*. Other words that have been flagged in society include: *freshman, victim, survivor, addict, disabled person, policeman, and many others*.
- Survey found 62% of Americans said that “the political climate today keeps them from expressing their beliefs.” And even higher percentage (77%) of conservatives “feel compelled to keep their beliefs to themselves.”

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# Six Ways Language is Manipulated

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- Shame Those Who Disagree with the Accepted Narrative
- Opposed to abortion? You hate women.
- Believe in traditional marriage? You are homophobic.
- Believe in strong borders? You are racist.
- Oppose radical Islam? You are Islamophobic.
- Speech codes on campus and hate speech laws are attempts to silence and censor unpopular ideas.

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# Six Ways Language is Manipulated

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- Ideology Must Always Overrule Facts
- Facts must be selected according to the narrative.
- No counter-evidence is not allowed (logic and rationality are biased).
- Use Honorable Terms but Given Them a Less-Than-Honorable Meaning
- Words like *equality* and *justice* have been redefined.
- “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).
- Key distinction between social justice and biblical justice (Tony Evans).

