

December 11
1 Samuel 16.1-13

Friday

Holy God, thank you for a new beginning. Thank you for your profound redeeming. Thank you for inviting us to be part of your story, your work, your love, your peace. We are unworthy, yet you restore us to a place of honor. We are so grateful. Amen.



Landscape with Samuel Anointing David | Claude Lorraine | c. 1643

Samuel is on a mission from God. The elders of Bethlehem have no idea what has brought him. They just know this prophet of the Lord, this one who anointed Saul to be king, is in town. They wonder why. So they ask: do you come in peace? This new epoch of kings, which had begun so promisingly has turned, quickly, into a matter of concern. So, they ask: are you here to cause trouble?

Samuel says, basically, fear not. I come peaceably. Let us go and sanctify ourselves, for we have holy business before us. A sacred moment in Israel's history when a new king is to be named; the second in this recent experiment of royal leadership. The one only God would select: the youngest, the smallest, the least experienced son born to Jesse. Yet, the one whose courage is tested, whose fidelity is measured, whose compassion is true. Who will be a man after God's own heart.

Until that day, far off into the distance, when perfection eludes him, when sin beckons him, when his mind abandons him. When David makes choices that lead him further and further from God's intent for his life. That day is ahead of David. But, today, today is the day David is chosen, and anointed, and asked to lead God's people. The day when he begins a new chapter, a new life, which will, one day lead to the everlasting King, the Prince of Peace, the Son born to God.

Born from the lineage of David.

Pastor Kim Jackson