

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Thou art making everyone you meet bloody miserable with your long face and doleful expression and rent garments. Not to mention the ashes. Snap out of it! Thou setteth not a good example. Go and fill thine horn with oil (and this be not a metaphor) and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.
2. And Samuel said, Doth he reside in Bethlehem? And the Lord said, Verily. That is why he is called a Bethlehemite. Stupid oaf! And Samuel said, How can I go? If Saul hear of it, he will kill me to death, and besides, I have no oil, foolish virgin that I am. And the Lord said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord. And for the oil, get thee to Miriam in the market, who is not a virgin but is wise, and buy a flask, saying, I have need of thy oil, and she will give thee one. And don't talk to her sister - the one from Jericho.
3. And when thou reachest Bethlehem call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.
4. And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and got one from Miriam (not her sister) paying her fairly and then came he to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and their knees did quake and the bowels of some were loosened, and they questioned him saying, Comest thou peaceably?
5. And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And they did so, bringing with them food and wine, for they knew this was to be a long service with many giving of page numbers. And meeting Jesse and his sons Samuel sanctified them and called them to the sacrifice.
6. And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Jesse's sons and his eye lit upon Eliab, and he thought, Phwoar! Bona to vada! Surely the Lord's anointed is before me.
7. But the Lord raised his eyes unto heaven, where He was already, and said secretly unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, nor on the height of his stature, nor on the broadness of his thighs; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.
8. Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, Neither hath the Lord chosen this one for his wrists are slack, and his name difficult to pronounce.
9. Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this, for even though his chest is broad his ears are too long. And Samuel did ask him, Art thou wearing scent? but Shammah made no reply, but walked away with a strange gait.
10. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these for each hath an aspect that offendeth the eye or nose or fashion sense. And two were smelly.
11. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, Is seven not enough? I am wearied with bringing forth offspring and my wife even more so. However, there remaineth yet the youngest named David, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. (Let the reader understand.) And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And the elders did groan for they were tired of standing and hungered for the potted meats and cheese and fresh bread they had brought, and thirsteth for the wine in their flasks, which was a bit rough for the Romans had not yet arrived.
12. And Jesse sent, and brought David in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and a bit of a looker, even from his feet to the hair of his head. His nose was finely

shaped, his teeth straight, his ears well formed, and even the smell of the sheep was as fragrance to the nostrils. And the Lord said, Arise, (for Samuel had finally sat down) and anoint him: for this is he. Yes, that one. Or do I have to point?

13. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren saying, I anoint thee. And the oil runneth over David's head and across his shoulders, and Samuel did eagerly wipe away the liquid with his robe. And despite the small pool on the floor the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, ate and drank with the elders and Jesse and his sons, and taking a lingering backward glance at David he went to Ramah. Unsteadily.