

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS 21 – ISRAEL DEFEATS KING ARAD

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers.

Numbers 21

Say – The Israelites begin to take the Promised Land or the land of Canaan. Verses 1-3 are of the defeat of King Arad the Canaanite. God had told the first generation to defeat King Arad, the Canaanite, and now God was testing the 2nd generation to see if they would do it. 40 years earlier the 1st generation had been defeated here but not the 2nd generation for they were mostly obedient.

¹And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners. (God allowed this for they were not all as they should have been.)

²And Israel vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities (This was a humble plea to God to deliver the Canaanites into their hands and God would receive the credit for it.).

³And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah (Hormah means destruction.).

⁴And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom (Modern day Iraq – Esau, red people): and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way (The way was not an easy road and it would have been better if they could have gone through Edom but they could not enter Edom. The Bible tells us “⁴And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: ⁵Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession” Deuteronomy 2:4-5.).

⁵And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread (Bread was the heavenly manna and they thought it worthless, imagine! Remember the Bible tells us “⁵⁰This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. **I am** the living **bread** which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this

bread, he shall live for ever: and the **bread** that **I** will give is my flesh, which **I** will give for the **life** of the world.” John 6:51.).

⁶And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people (The serpents was symbolic of Satan; the sting of Satan the Devil.), and they bit the people (were poisoned); and much people of Israel died (This was the wife of Christ complaining; they had forgotten they had just come through a major victory with God. The serpent was one of the major gods of Egypt. The Bible tells us “¹⁵Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; ¹⁶Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;” Deuteronomy 8:15-16).

⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned (The Israelites woke up and confessed their sins.), for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

⁸And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole (The Israelites had to acknowledge who had delivered them; they were never to speak against God or Moses.): and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten (sin), when he looketh upon it, shall live (The Israelites had to have faith and come back to their senses for the fiery serpent would represent God for God allows serpents to come among us with diseases, etc. to bring us back to Him. They looked to God as the Lord that healed them but we must repent. The Bible tells us “¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” John 3:14-15.).

⁹And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived (The Bible tells us “²¹Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. ²²Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” Isaiah 45:21-22).

¹⁰And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

¹¹And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ijeabarim, in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising (Now the children of Israel had come to Moab who were the children of Lot. The children of Israel were going further northeast.).

¹²From thence they removed, and pitched in the valley of Zared (Zared is a river east of the Jordan, in the region of Moab and Edom, and a source of the Arnon River (Strong’s Concordance). Speaking to the 2nd generation

because the 1st generation were disobedient “¹³Now rise up, said I, and get you over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered. ¹⁴And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted (consumed) out from among the host, as the LORD swore unto them.” Deuteronomy 2:13-14. Only the two men who were obedient to God, Caleb and Joshua, could enter the Promised Land of Canaan with the 2nd generation.).

¹³From thence they removed, and pitched on the other side of Arnon (a river), which is in the wilderness that cometh out of the coasts of the Amorites: for Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites (The Bible tells us “¹⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” Exodus 17:14. This is the only nation God ever said this about Amalek and we will find out why in Numbers 22-24. Amalek was from the oldest son of Esau; his name was Eliphaz; Amalek was by his concubine Timna and played a roll in Israel’s history; see Genesis 36:12 and I Chronicles 1:36.

The Amalekites were an ancient and nomadic marauding (marauding means to raid and plunder) people dwelling mainly in the Negeb from the times of Abraham to Hezekiah, 2000-700 B. C. (The New Compact Bible Dictionary, Pg. 34) They are frequently mentioned in the history of Israel ¹⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. ¹⁵And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: ¹⁶For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation. Exodus 17:14-18.)

Also read I Samuel chapter 15 about the Amalekites; “¹Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. ³Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. (The people had become so corrupt and God wanted them to be utterly destroyed.) ⁴And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. ⁶And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. ⁸And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive (A type of Pharaoh.), and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. (Saul did not destroy them totally and disobeyed the voice of God.) ⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. ¹⁰Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, ¹¹It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and

he cried unto the LORD all night. ¹²And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

¹³And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. (Samuel asked Saul) ¹⁴And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? ¹⁵And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. ¹⁶Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. ¹⁷And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? ¹⁸And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. ¹⁹Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?(You took them for yourself) ²⁰And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal (another lie). ²²And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Say - Saul pleads for forgiveness. While Saul is still on the throne, Samuel anoints David as Israel's next king.

²⁴And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. ²⁵Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. ²⁶And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. ²⁷And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. ²⁸And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. ²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. ³⁰Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God. ³¹So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD. ³²Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. ³³And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. ³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel. I Samuel 15.).

Back to Numbers 21

¹⁴Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the LORD, What he did in the Red sea, and in the brooks of Arnon,

¹⁵And at the stream of the brooks that goeth down to the dwelling of Ar, and lieth upon the border of Moab.

¹⁶And from thence they went to Beer: that is the well whereof the LORD spake unto Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water.

¹⁷Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing ye unto it (The children of Israel sang this song “Spring up, O well” in thankfulness to God. The Bible tells us “³⁷In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink (Drink in of My life; it is free.). ³⁸He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (Spiritually speaking. A flood of spiritual life, outpouring of good works, empathy, joy and helpfulness.) John 7:37-38).

¹⁸The princes digged the well, the nobles of the people digged it, by the direction of the lawgiver (Moses under God), with their staves. And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah: (The Bible tells us “¹⁷When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. ¹⁸I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water” Isaiah 41:17-18).

¹⁹And from Mattanah to Nahaliel: and from Nahaliel to Bamoth:

²⁰And from Bamoth in the valley, that is in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah, which looketh toward Jeshimon (the desert).

Say – Israel sent a peaceful message to the King Sihon of the Amorites but King Sihon and Og are taken by the sword.

²¹And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,

²²Let me pass through thy land: we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well: but we will go along by the king's high way, until we be past thy borders.

²³And Sihon would not suffer (allow) Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

²⁴And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong.

²⁵And Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

²⁶For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon.

²⁷Wherefore they that speak in proverbs say, Come into Heshbon, let the city of Sihon be built and prepared (established):

²⁸For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon.

²⁹Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites (From "The New Compact Bible Dictionary" pg. 104. Chemosh was the god of Moab and Ammon; Solomon introduced the god Chemosh to please a foreign wife which displeased God. The Bible tells us "⁶And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. ⁷Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. ⁸And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. ⁹And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, ¹⁰And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded." I Kings 11:6-10. This is when it started when Solomon quit listening to the True God. Josiah put an end to the worship of Chemosh; 2 Kings 23:13 which says "¹³And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile." 2 Kings 23:13.).

Back to Numbers 21

³⁰We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, and we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, which reacheth unto Medeba.

³¹Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

³²And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there.

³³And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan: and og the king of bashan went out against them, he, and all his people, to the battle at edrei (From the New Compact Bible Dictionary, pg.419. King Og was an Amorite also and King of Bashan. King Og was a giant and held sway over 60 separate communities. King Og's defeat by the Israelites is told to us in Deuteronomy "¹Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. ²And the LORD said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. (Moses made it into the Promised Land but did not go over the Jordan River; the 2nd generation possessed the land on both

sides of the river.) ³So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining. ⁴And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ⁵All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many. ⁶And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city (Left nothing behind so there was no evidence left of them.). ⁷But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves. ⁸And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto mount Hermon; ⁹(Which Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion; and the Amorites call it Shenir;); ¹⁰All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan (A beautiful territory.). ¹¹For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.” Deuteronomy 3:1-13.)

The Bible tells us ⁴“And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed. ⁵And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you. ⁶Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ⁷And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. ⁸And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:4-8.).

³⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Fear him not (giants are nothing to God): for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon.

³⁵So they smote him, and his sons, and all his people, until there was none left him alive: and they possessed his land (God gave the Israelites the successes.).

MEMORY VERSE

³⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Fear him not (giants are nothing to God): for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon.

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BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

SAMUEL AND SAUL AND DAVID

I Samuel 15

¹Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. ³Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. (The people had become so corrupt and God wanted them to be utterly destroyed.)

⁴And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. ⁶And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. ⁸And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

(However Saul did not destroy them totally and disobeyed the voice of God.) ⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. ¹⁰Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, ¹¹It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. ¹²And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

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have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal (another lie). ²²And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

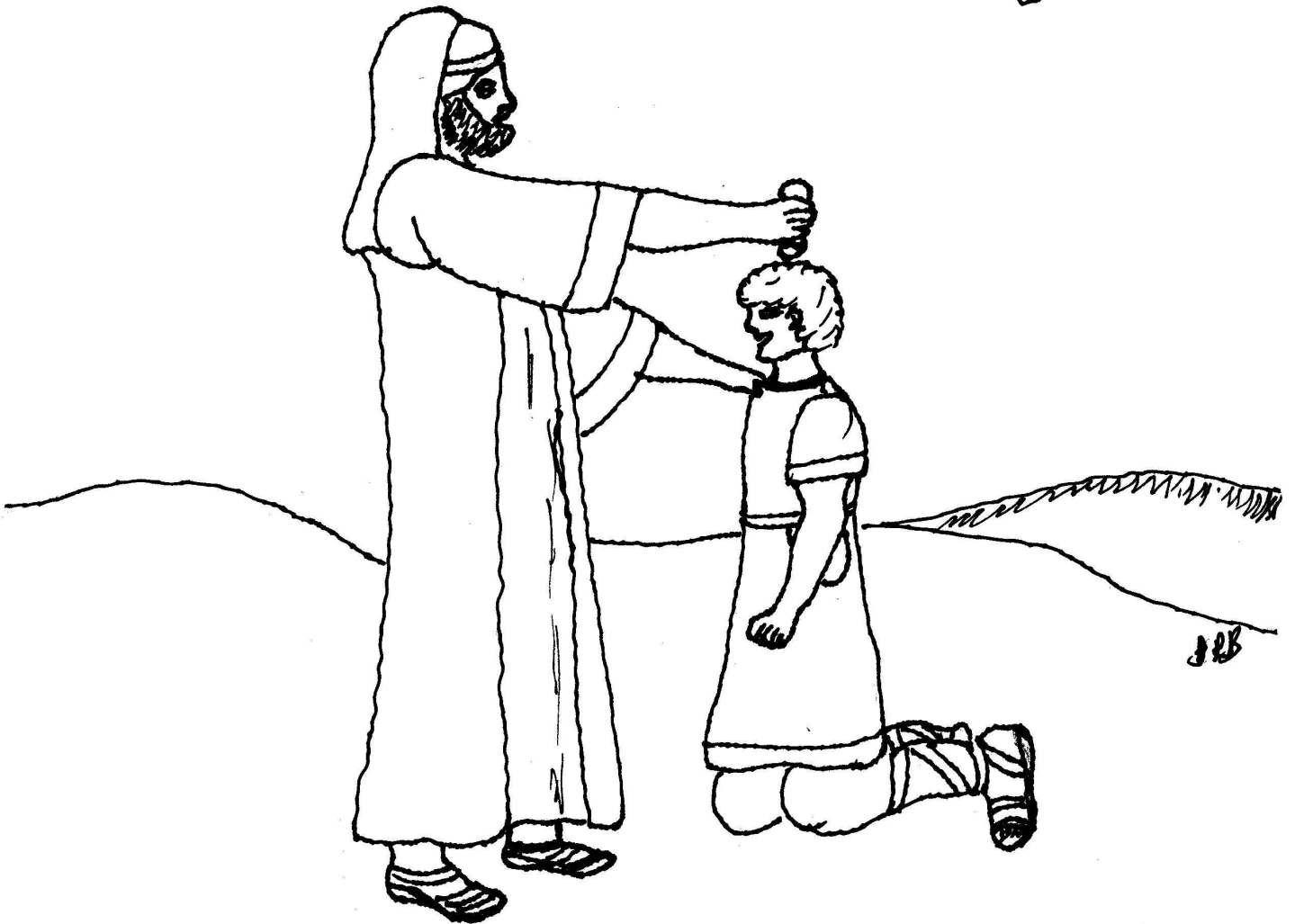
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While Saul is still on the throne over Israel; Samuel anoints David as King over Israel.

YOU CAN READ ABOUT DAVID IN I SAMUEL 16:1-23 AS WELL.

BUT THE LORD SAID UNTO SAMUEL, LOOK NOT ON HIS COUNTENANCE OR ON THE HEIGHT OF HIS STATURE, BECAUSE I HAVE REFUSED HIM; FOR THE LORD SEETH NOT AS MAN SEETH FOR MAN LOOKS ON THE OUTWORD APPEARANCE



AND SAMUEL SAID UNTO JESSE ARE HERE ALL THY CHILDREN AND HE SAID REMAINETH THE YOUNGEST, AND BEHOLD HE KEEPETH THE SHEEP... AND HE SENT AND BROUGHT HIM IN, NOW HE WAS RUDDY AND WITH ALL OF A BEAUTIFUL COUNTENANCE AND GOODLY TO LOOK AT. AND THE LORD SAID ARISE, ANOINT HIM: FOR THIS IS HE. THEN SAMUEL TOOK THE HORN OF OIL AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON DAVID FROM THAT DAY FORWARD.

1 SAMUEL 16:11 -13