

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

Minor things can easily be overlooked until they exert their effects. Then people realize how important they are. In August 2015, an Air Force reconnaissance airplane caught fire in Nebraska while rolling on the runway and getting ready to take off. Fortunately, the flight crew managed to escape unharmed. Investigators looked for the cause of the accident afterward. It turned out that a screw connecting an oxygen tubing was not tightened properly. Leaking of a highly flammable gas triggered the fire. A 62.4 million dollar plane was completely destroyed. That is nothing compared to a bigger disaster if the incident had happened in midair. It would have led to the loss of many lives. A small bolt that few people pay attention to has a critical role. Our God is very much into details. He orchestrates millions and billions of complicated factors in the world to accomplish His will. He invites you and I to participate in His plans. We must be sensitive to God's calling and be submissive to His guidance. When we look at things from God's perspective, then we can see what He sees. Then we will be amazed that God has been working in the world and in our lives all along.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 揀選謙和的領袖 Election of A Meek Leader

In the last chapter, God had determined to fire Saul as a king. Saul proved to be a self-centered and not a God-centered person. But God's intent is unaffected by men's sins. He was about to elect a meek leader to replace Saul. Therefore, God gave Samuel a new assignment in verse 1: **The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."** God was mindful that His people needed a new leader. That person was "a man after God's own heart." God asked Samuel to tell the residents at Bethlehem that he was coming to offer a peace offering. Jesse and his sons would be invited to a feast. On his arrival, Samuel asked Jesse to present his sons one by one. Picture it like a beauty pageant or a singing audition. But this time, the candidates did not have to display their talents. They just showed up in front of Samuel. We will pick up the story in verse 6-7: **6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."** Samuel thought Eliab was the man God had chosen. He was the oldest son and he had the look too. But God cautioned Samuel not to repeat the same mistake in Saul. The Israelites adored Saul instantly because he had the appearance of a king just like other nations had. Although Saul was a head taller than others, he was a mile below God's expectations. How easy it is for even Christians to focus on outward qualities? We follow the

secular commonsense of “judging a book by its cover.” When I was a young Christian, my home church in Hong Kong elects new coworkers annually. Members picked certain number of deacons from among the candidates. I had an interesting observation. Candidates who were less popular seldom won. They might be less out-spoken, who had humble jobs or who had never served in any official capacity. How could they become church coworkers if people did not give them a chance? Although certain positions require particular skills, God does not screen our resumes. He searches our hearts. Godly virtues like gentleness, patience and faithfulness cannot be seen from the surface. They are results of spiritual maturity. I like the acronym FAT. God delights to use people who are faithful, available and teachable. Therefore, do not look down on yourself that you do not have enough knowledge or experience. You can always learn from seasoned coworkers. The more important factor is that you must have a submissive heart ready to be used by God. If God lays in your heart certain ministries, for example, teaching, cooking or caring, etc. go talk to respective leaders or come to me. We will love to tell you where to start. Jesse’s sons appeared before Samuel. But God eliminated them one after another. Then skip down to verse 11: **Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”** We can sense a hint of despise in Jesse’s reply. He seemed to say: “Yeah, I’ve a youngest son. But what can a little shepherd boy do?” That young lad was David. He could be a teenager by then. He was not as strong, tall and capable compared to his older brothers. God wanted Samuel and Jesse to understand that He evaluated people by a different standard. Jesse followed Samuel’s instruction. Continue to read verse 12-13: **12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.** David was a good-looking young man. But that was not the reason why God elected him. We shall see David’s noble character in later stories. For now, all that Samuel and Jesse’s family knew was that David was chosen by God. No one even asked what David was anointed for. Only Samuel was aware of God’s plan. God’s election of David was confirmed by the indwelling of God’s Spirit. The same Spirit also came upon Saul when he was anointed as a king. We said before that the work of the Holy Spirit was not that common in the Old Testament. God sent the Spirit after Jesus had returned to heaven. Since then, the Holy Spirit comes upon people the moment they receive Jesus into their hearts. The presence of God’s Spirit confirms our salvation. He changes us to be a new person. In the past you had no interest in spiritual matter. But now you love to read the Bible and enjoy attending church meetings. In the past you were a selfish person. But now you show compassion to hurting people by helping them. In the past money was the most important thing to you. But now you are generous with the wealth God blesses you with. Those are obvious signs that you are a child of God. Moreover, the Holy Spirit enables us to serve God. Saul had success when he relied on God’s Spirit. He failed when he only counted on his little human wisdom. Likewise, when we depend on ourselves, we can easily become prideful and we will follow our own agenda rather than God’s instructions. God does not call for independent contractors who say: “Sure. I can do it.” God loves to recruit people who partner with Him and pray: “Lord, I need Your help.” God can use people of meekness.

## 2. 棄絕軟弱的領袖 Rejection of A Weak Leader

The anointing of David begins a new chapter in God's masterplan. A future king was in the making. At the same time, it further affirmed God's rejection of Saul for being a weak leader. The second half of the chapter describes the sudden downfall of Saul. Verse 14 is a shocking remark: **Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.** The word translated as "harmful" is a general word for evil. How can a holy God send a demon to torture someone? Let us review some important truth. God is sinless and He cannot sin. He is also sovereign and powerful. God works through matters that we consider as good and bad to accomplish His will. In this case, God used a spirit, possibly an angel, to discipline Saul for his disobedience. This evil spirit caused mental and psychological problems on Saul. God can use various means to discipline rebellious children. He raised up foreign nations, many of which were idol worshippers and ruthless conquerors, to oppress Israel. God also used famine and plague to judge His unfaithful people. God has perfect plans for us, although sometimes we may not fully understand His actions. We should examine our relationship with God when we suffer. We should confess to Him if we sin. Seeing that their king was acting strangely, officials gave him advice in verse 15-16: **15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."** Even the servants knew that Saul was not having a physical illness, but a spiritual one. It was commonly known in the ancient world that music can sooth one's mind. Listening to soft music can help us unwind from the tension and stress of daily life too. A lyre might be a small harp that could be held in one hand. As effective as the cure might be, it was only a temporary and superficial fix. Saul understood that the root problem was his rebellion toward God. A permanent solution was repentance. Unfortunately, Saul had hardened his heart. Saul's assistants were trying to help him. But they could only give the king some secular advice. A good friend will refer you to an expert. But a godly friend will pray with you. There is no conflict between looking for a specialist and praying to God. We seek God's guidance to find the best professional. But we should also pray that God will minister His grace through technology and men's expertise. Saul listened to the advice. A servant recommended in verse 18: **One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him."** The person he referred to was David. He had quite a few strengths that people admired. Other than being good at music, David was also a warrior. He was eloquent and handsome too. Moreover, people could see that "the Lord is with him." The Bible has similar descriptions about Joseph and Daniel. Both men and David served ungodly rulers. Those kings noticed that their servants were capable because God was with them. Your supervisor may not be a believer. He/she may even be unreasonable and hard to please at times. You cannot control how your boss treats you. But you can be a blessing to people at work and witness that the Lord is with you. Be loyal to your company, be diligent in your tasks and be kind to people in the office. If even the secular world looks for those qualities, how much more should we as Christians

be examples of those standards? Ultimately, our goal is not a raise or a bonus, but getting the approval of the Lord. David was summoned and he became Saul's music therapist. Saul liked David so much that he asked Jesse to allow David to stay with him as a permanent assistant. Saul received temporary relief with David's help. Verse 23 describes: **And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.** David would be called upon whenever Saul needed him like an inhaler for people suffering from an asthma attack. Being with Saul, it was an ideal training ground for a future king. Exposure to the adults' world would definitely speed up David's maturity. I had a similar experience while working on summer jobs during my high school years. I learned how to work as a team, follow instructions from my supervisors and enjoy the fruit of my labor. Besides, I also observed the beauty and ugliness of humanity. I met people who are loyal, trustworthy and caring. But I also witnessed jealousy, dishonesty and slander. The same experience shaped David to be a wise person and a future ruler. Needless to say, David noticed the detrimental effects of sin on Saul too. It taught him the contrasting results of being obedient versus rebellious to God. Through God's plan, a shepherd boy became a close associate of the king. God lays out a unique path for each of us too. We have some general ideas about major goals in life such as career, marriage and family. But we cannot foresee how and when those milestones will be reached. All we can see is the next step. But we should not be paranoid about uncertainties. We just trust in the Lord and follow His guidance. He will open the right doors for us at the right time just like He did for David. We are in good hands because we are in God's hand.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

When we look at things from God's perspective, then we can see what He sees. God has been working in the world and in our lives all along. God did not abandon His people despite Saul's failure. He told Samuel: **"I have provided for myself a king."** (v. 1) David was not only a king of Israel. He was to accomplish God's will. Through David, God has an even bigger plan for the whole mankind. A thousand years after David, God gave us another King, who is Jesus Christ. Jesus was a descendant of David. Just like David did, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. On the night when Jesus came into the world, an angel said to some shepherds in Luke 2:10-11 – **10 ... "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."** No one could imagine that the King of all kings would arrive as a baby. He who had all the power in the universe must rely on His earthly parents for survival. After Jesus became a grown man, He went about to preach the gospel. He met some of His future disciples. One of whom was Philip. He joyfully told Nathanael that he encountered the Savior foretold by the Old Testament prophets. Nathanael responded with ridicule in John 1:46 – **... "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."** Today, we also need to come to the Lord with a humble and objective mind, then we can see His work around and in us. Jesus is God's King provided for us. Will you let Him be your King?

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

微小的事情很容易被忽略，直到它們發揮功用，然後人們才意識到它們的重要性。2015年8月，一架空軍偵察機在內布拉斯加州起火，當時飛機在跑道上滑行準備起飛。還好飛機上的所有人員都安全地逃脫了。調查人員事後探討事故的起因。他們發現連接氧氣管的一顆螺絲沒有拴緊，因此易燃氣體的洩漏引起火災。一架六千兩百四十萬美元的飛機化為烏有。但是如果事件發生在半空中，那便會導致許多人喪生。一顆很少人注意的小螺絲卻起了重要的作用。神非常注重細節。祂在世界中協調千百萬個複雜的因素來完成祂的旨意。神也邀請你我參與祂的計劃。我們必須敏銳神的呼召，並順服祂的引導。當我們從神的角度看事情時，我們就能看見神所看見的。然後我們會驚訝原來神一直在世界和我們的生命中工作。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 揀選謙和的領袖 Election of A Meek Leader

在上一章，神決定不要掃羅作王。掃羅是一個自我中心而不是以神為中心的人。但神的旨意不會受人的罪所影響。祂要揀選一位謙和的領袖來代替掃羅。因此，神在第1節給了撒母耳一個新的任務：**耶和華對撒母耳說：「我既厭棄掃羅作以色列的王，你為他悲傷要到幾時呢？你將膏油盛滿了角，我差遣你往伯利恆人耶西那裏去；因為我在他眾子之內，預定一個作王的。」**神明白祂的子民需要一位新領袖，那個人是「合神心意的人」。神要撒母耳告訴伯利恆的居民，他要來獻平安祭。耶西和他的兒子們將被邀請來吃飯。撒母耳一到，就要求耶西一一介紹他的兒子。想像他們好像在參加選美或是歌唱比賽逐一出場。不過這一次，候選人不用表現他們的才藝，他們只需要出現在撒母耳面前。我們跳到第6-7節：**6 他們來的時候，撒母耳看見以利押，就心裏說，耶和華的受膏者必定在他面前。7 耶和華卻對撒母耳說：「不要看他的外貌和他身材高大，我不揀選他。因為，耶和華不像人看人：人是看外貌；耶和華是看內心。」**撒母耳以為以利押是神所揀選的人。他是長子，樣子也不錯。但是神提醒撒母耳不要重複在掃羅身上的同樣錯誤。以色列人看到掃羅就馬上喜歡他，因為他有其他國家君王的外表。掃羅雖然比眾人高出一個頭，但是他的表現卻離神的期望很遠。就算是基督徒也很容易只看一些外在因素。我們常常會以貌取人。當我還是個年輕的基督徒時，我在香港參加的教會每年都會選舉新同

工。會友從候選人中挑選需要的執事。我有一個有趣的觀察。沒有幾個人認識的候選人很少獲勝。他們可能不常講話，他們做比較卑微的工作，或者他們從來沒有做過教會的同工。如果人們不給他們機會，他們怎麼能在教會事奉？雖然某些職位需要特定的技能，但是神不會看我們的簡歷，祂鑑察我們的心。你無法從人的外面看到溫柔、耐心和忠誠等品格。那些美德是靈命成熟的結果。有人說神喜歡使用 FAT 的人，就是忠心、隨時候命和受教的人。因此，不要小看自己知識或經驗不足。你可以請教經驗豐富的同工。更重要的是你必須有一顆順服的心，預備好被神使用。如果神給你負擔參與某些事奉，例如教導、燒菜或關顧等，請你和負責的同工接洽或是來找我。我們很樂意告訴你如何開始。耶西的兒子出現在撒母耳面前，但神卻把他們一一淘汰。然後我們看第 11 節：**撒母耳對耶西說：「你的兒子都在這裏嗎？」他回答說：「還有個小的，現在放羊。」撒母耳對耶西說：「你打發人去叫他來；他若不來，我們必不坐席。」**我們可以從耶西的回答中感覺到一點輕視。他似乎在說：「是的，我還有一個最小的兒子。但是一個牧羊童能做什麼呢？」那個小伙子就是大衛。當時他可能是個青少年。他沒有哥哥們那麼強壯、高大和能幹。神要撒母耳和耶西明白，祂用不同的標準來看人。耶西聽從撒母耳的指示。請繼續看 12-13 節：**12 耶西就打發人去叫了他來。他面色光紅，雙目清秀，容貌俊美。耶和華說：「這就是他，你起來膏他。」13 撒母耳就用角裏的膏油，在他諸兄中膏了他。從這日起，耶和華的靈就大大感動大衛。撒母耳起身回拉瑪去了。**大衛是個英俊的年輕人，但那並不是神揀選他的原因。我們會在以後的故事中看到大衛的優良品格。在目前，撒母耳和耶西的家人只知道大衛是神揀選的人。但是沒有人問大衛受膏的原因，只有撒母耳知道神的計劃。神揀選大衛藉著神的靈的內住而得到證實。當掃羅被膏立為王時，同樣的靈也降臨在他身上。我們以前說過，聖靈的工作在舊約中並不常見。耶穌升天之後，神才差遣聖靈。從那時起，當人們接受耶穌進入他們的內心時，聖靈就會降臨在他們身上。聖靈的同在確認了我們的得救。聖靈改變我們成為一個新人。過去你對屬靈的事情不感興趣，但現在你喜歡讀聖經和參加教會聚會。過去你是一個自私的人，但是現在你憐憫有需要的人並樂意幫助他們。在過去，錢對你來說是最重要的東西。但現在你對神賜予你的財富很慷慨。這些跡象表明你是神的兒女。此外，聖靈裝備我們事奉神。當掃羅依靠神的靈時，他取得了成功。但是當他倚靠自己的小聰明時，他就失敗。同樣，當我們依靠自己時，我們很容易會驕傲。我們會按照自己的計劃行事，而不是跟隨神的指示。神不要我們拍胸口說：「沒問題，我能夠做到。」神喜歡呼召謙卑的人與祂同工。他們會向神禱告說：「主啊，我需要祢的幫助。」神樂意使用謙和的人。

## 2. 棄絕軟弱的領袖 Rejection of A Weak Leader

大衛的受膏開始了神計劃新的一頁。神正在塑造未來的君王。同時，也進一步肯定了神棄絕掃羅這個軟弱的領袖。這一章的後半部分描述掃羅的突然轉變。第 14 節是一個令人震驚的形容：**耶和華的靈離開掃羅，有惡魔從耶和華那裏來擾亂他。**聖潔的神怎麼會派惡魔來折磨人呢？讓我們複習一些重要的真理。神是無罪的，祂也不能犯罪。神充滿主權與能力。神通過我們認為好和壞的事情來成就祂的旨意。在這裡，神使用一個靈，可能是一個天使，來管教掃羅的悖逆。這個惡魔引起掃羅精神和心理上的問題。神可以用不同的方式管教不順服的兒女。祂興起外邦來壓迫以色列，其中許多是拜偶像的人和暴君。神也用飢荒和瘟疫來審判祂不忠的子民。神對我們有完美的計劃，儘管有時我們無法完全理解祂的作為。當我們受苦時，我們應該檢查我們與神的關係。如果我們犯罪，我們應該向神認罪。當官員們看到王怪異的表現時，他們在第 15-16 節給他建議：**15 掃羅的臣僕對他說：「現在有惡魔從神那裏來擾亂你。16 我們的主可以吩咐面前的臣僕，找一個善於彈琴的來，等神那裏來的惡魔臨到你身上的時候，使他用手彈琴，你就好了。」**連僕人都知道掃羅不是身體有病，而是靈裡出問題。在古代世界眾所周知，音樂可以撫慰人心。聽音樂也可以幫助我們從日常生活的緊張和壓力中放鬆下來。這裡說的琴可能是一把可以單手握住的小豎琴。儘管這個治療方式有效，但它只是一種暫時和表面的解決。掃羅明白根本的問題是他對神的悖逆。一個永久的解決辦法是悔改。很可惜，掃羅的心已經剛硬。掃羅的助手試圖幫助他，但他們只能提供一些世俗的建議。好朋友會介紹專家給你，但是敬虔的朋友會和你一起禱告。找專家和求神沒有衝突。我們尋求神的指導，以找到最好的專業人士。但我們也應該祈求神通過科技和人的知識施予恩典。掃羅聽從了勸告。一個僕人在第 18 節推薦：**其中有一個少年人說：「我曾見伯利恆人耶西的一個兒子善於彈琴，是大有勇敢的戰士，說話合宜，容貌俊美，耶和華也與他同在。」**他提到的那個人就是大衛。他有很多讓人羨慕的優點。除了彈奏音樂之外，大衛還是個戰士。而且他有口才，外表也好看。更重要的是，人們能看到耶和華與他同在。聖經對約瑟和但以理也有類似的描述。他們和大衛都事奉不信神的統治者。那些王注意到他們的僕人有辦事能力，是因為神與他們同在。你的老闆可能不是信徒。他有時甚至不講理並且難以討好。你無法控制老闆如何對待你，但你可以在工作場所帶給別人祝福，並見證主與你同在。你要對公司忠心，勤奮工作，善待辦公室裡的人。如果連這個世界都要求這些素質，作為基督徒，我們豈不是更應該樹立這些榜樣嗎？我們最終的目標不是加薪或獎金，而是得到主的認可。大衛被選召，成為掃羅的音樂治療師。掃羅非常喜歡大衛，他甚至要求耶西允許大衛留在他身邊。掃羅在大衛的幫助下得到了暫時的舒解。第 23 節描述：**從神那裏來的惡魔臨到掃羅身上的時候，大衛就拿琴，用手而彈，掃羅便舒暢爽快，惡魔離了**

他。每當掃羅需要大衛時，他就會被召喚，就像氣喘發作的病人需要吸用藥物一樣。與掃羅在一起，這是未來君王的理想訓練場。接觸大人的世界肯定會加速大衛的成熟。我在高中期間從事暑期工作時也有過類似的經歷。我學會團隊合作，聽從主管的指示並享受辛勞的成果。此外，我還觀察到人性的美麗與醜陋。我遇到了忠誠、值得信賴和關心別人的人。但我也目睹了嫉妒、不誠實和誹謗。同樣的經歷塑造了大衛成為一個有智慧的人和未來的領袖。當然大衛也注意到罪對掃羅的影響。這就告訴他順服與背逆神截然不同的結果。因著神的計劃，一個牧羊童成為了王的助手。神為我們每個人安排了獨特的路。我們對一些主要目標，如事業、婚姻和家庭，有一些基本的概念。但是我們無法預料將如何以及何時達到那些里程碑。我們只能看到下一步。但我們不應該對將來的未知惶恐。我們只要信靠主，聽從祂的引導。祂會在適當的時間為我們打開正確的門，就像祂引導大衛一樣。我們有美好的前途，因為我們在神的手中。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

當我們從神的角度看事情時，我們就能看見神所看見的。神一直都在世界和我們的生命中工作。雖然掃羅失敗了，但神並沒有拋棄祂的子民。祂對撒母耳說：「我已經預備了一個王。」（第 1 節）大衛不僅是以色列的君王，他也要成就神的旨意。藉著大衛，神對全人類有一個更遠大的計劃。大衛之後一千年，神給了我們另一位君王，就是耶穌基督。耶穌是大衛的後裔。就像大衛一樣，耶穌出生在伯利恆。耶穌降世的那天晚上，一位天使在路加福音 2:10-11 中對一些牧羊人說：10 ... 「不要懼怕！我報給你們大喜的信息，是關乎萬民的； 11 因今天在大衛的城裏，為你們生了救主，就是主基督。」沒有人能想像到，萬王之王會以嬰兒的方式降臨。雖然祂擁有全宇宙的所有力量，但是祂必須依靠地上的父母才能生存。耶穌長大成人後，祂出去傳福音。祂遇到了一些未來的門徒。其中一位是腓力。他高興地告訴拿但業，他遇到了舊約先知所預言的救主。拿但業在約翰福音 1:46 中以嘲笑回應：... 「拿撒勒還能出甚麼好的嗎？」腓力說：「你來看！」今天，我們也需要以謙卑客觀的心來到主面前，才能看見祂在我們周圍和我們裡面的工作。耶穌是神為我們預備的君王。你願意讓祂成為你的王嗎？