

# 1 Samuel 16:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

## Analysis

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**And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.**

Jesse's gifts followed ancient Near Eastern protocol for approaching royalty - bread for sustenance, wine for celebration, a young goat for sacrifice or feasting. The donkey-load indicates substantial tribute appropriate for a king. Jesse's careful provision demonstrates both respect for royal authority and investment in his son's success. David's transition from shepherd's bag to courtly gifts marks his entry into a larger world.

## Historical Context

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Tribute gifts (Hebrew minchah) were customary when approaching superiors. The combination of provisions - grain, drink, and meat - represented a complete meal of hospitality. Jesse's gift was generous but not extravagant, appropriate for a prosperous but not noble family.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do material gifts appropriately honor those in positions of authority?
2. What does Jesse's careful preparation teach about supporting those entering new callings?

## Interlinear Text

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וָיָקַח ח	וְיֵשׁ י	חֵמ וֹר	לֶחֶם	וְנֹאד	יַיִן	וְיָגֵד י
took	And Jesse	an ass	laden with bread	and a bottle	of wine	kid
H3947	H3448	H2543	H3899	H4997	H3196	H1423
וְעַתָּה ים	וְאֶחָד	וְשָׁלַח ח	בְּיָד	דָּוִד	בְּנוֹ י	אֶל שָׁאוּל:
H5795	and a	and sent	them by	David	his son	H413 unto Saul
	H259	H7971	H3027	H1732	H1121	H7586

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 18:16** (Parallel theme): A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

**1 Samuel 10:27** (Parallel theme): But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

**1 Samuel 17:18** (Parallel theme): And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.