

# 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

---

**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

---

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

---

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

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

## Study Questions

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

וְקָרְבָּן יְהִי שְׁמֵךְ לְפָנֶיךָ אָמֵן וְיִשְׁרָאֵל יְהִי כְּתָם  
took And Jesse an ass laden with bread and a bottle of wine kid  
H3947 H3448 H2543 H3899 H4997 H3196 H1423

אַל	בֶּן	וְ	בְּנֵי	אַל	שָׁאָל:
הַיְלָד	וְ	בְּנֵי	וְ	הַיְלָד	וְ
בְּנֵי	וְ	בְּנֵי	וְ	בְּנֵי	וְ
בְּנֵי	וְ	בְּנֵי	וְ	בְּנֵי	וְ

## Additional Cross-References

**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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org