

# 1 Samuel 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

## Analysis

---

**And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.**

Samuel's immediate assumption that Eliab was God's chosen reveals how deeply ingrained human criteria for leadership had become - even in a prophet. The Hebrew suggests Samuel was struck by Eliab's stature and appearance, much as Israel had been impressed by Saul's height. This moment of prophetic presumption becomes the occasion for one of Scripture's most important theological declarations about divine versus human evaluation.

## Historical Context

---

Firstborn sons held special status in ancient Israelite society, receiving the double portion of inheritance and family leadership responsibilities. Eliab's impressive appearance followed the pattern of Saul, who 'from his shoulders and upward was higher than any of the people' (1 Samuel 9:2). Physical stature was prized as a sign of warrior capability.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## **John 15:13 — Greatest form of love**

## 1 John 4:8 – God is love

## Study Questions

1. What human criteria do you unconsciously use to evaluate spiritual leadership potential?
2. How has God surprised you by choosing leaders who didn't match expected qualifications?

## Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	בָּבוֹא	וַיַּרְא	וְאַתָּה	בְּאַלְיָא
H1961	And it came to pass when they were come	that he looked	H853	on Eliab
	H935		H7200	H446
וַיֹּאמֶר	אָנָּה	מַשְׁיחָה		
and said	H389	H5048	Surely the LORD'S	anointed
	H559	H3068		H4899

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org