

Psalms 78:70

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:

Analysis

He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds. The psalm's climax: God's choice of David. **Chose** (vayyivchar, וַיַּיְחַר) repeats the election language from v. 68—God chose Judah, Zion, and now David. **His servant** (avdo, עֶבְדּוֹ) is David's supreme title, indicating covenant relationship. Moses (Deuteronomy 34:5) and prophets bore this title, but David uniquely as king-servant foreshadows Jesus, the Servant-King (Isaiah 42:1, Matthew 12:18).

Took him from the sheepfolds (lakach mimikhl'ot tson, לָקַח מִמִּיכְלָאֵת צֹאן) emphasizes God's sovereign initiative and David's humble origin. Shepherding was lowly work; David was youngest, forgotten when Samuel came seeking Israel's king (1 Samuel 16:11). God bypasses the prominent to choose the overlooked, demonstrating that election depends on divine grace, not human qualification.

The sheepfold imagery also connects David's vocation—he shepherded literal sheep (1 Samuel 17:34-35), preparing him to shepherd God's flock Israel (v. 71). Jesus, David's greater son, is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11).

Historical Context

David's anointing (c. 1025 BC) while still a shepherd boy shocked everyone—he wasn't even summoned initially (1 Samuel 16:1-13). God saw David's heart while

others assessed outward appearance. David's rise from shepherd to king parallels Joseph's rise from prisoner to prime minister—God exalts the humble.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does David's selection from the sheepfolds encourage believers who feel insignificant or overlooked?
2. What does God consistently choosing unlikely candidates (shepherds, fishermen, tax collectors) reveal about His values versus human values?
3. In what ways did David's shepherding experience prepare him for kingship, and how does God use your current circumstances to prepare you?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּבְחַר	בְּדָוִד	עֶבְדוֹ	וַיִּקַּח הוּא	מִמֶּלֶכְאֵת	צֶאֱלָוֶה
He chose	David	also his servant	and took	him from the sheepfolds	H6629
H977	H1732	H5650	H3947	H4356	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:22 (References David): And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.