



# GOD OF THE FATHERLESS

The Story Of God  
& Samuel



## Yes, No & Maybe

1. I am a very visual person.
2. I can't help it, but I give preferential treatment to good-lookin' people.
3. God is consistent in how He disciplines His people.
4. God still communicates His will through gadgets...Like drawing straws.
5. God gives us what we ask for, even when it is bad for us.

## Dig Deeper

### ➤ READ 1 Samuel 10:14-24 (NIV)

14 Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, "Where have you been?"

"Looking for the donkeys," he said. "But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."

15 Saul's uncle said, "Tell me what Samuel said to you."

16 Saul replied, "He assured us that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

17 Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah 18 and said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.' 19 But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities. And you have said, 'No, appoint a king over us.' So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans."

20 When Samuel had all Israel come forward by tribes, the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. 21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. 22 So they inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet?"

And the Lord said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies."

23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. 24 Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

### HE SAID, THEY SAID:

➤➤ **10:18,19 This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says...And you have said** - There was a terrible disparity between what the Lord had done (v. 18) and what Israel had done (v. 19a). The Lord had proven himself to be the one who saved Israel from their "calamities and ... distresses." The people of Israel had responded by demanding "a king over us" as a replacement for the Lord (see 1 Samuel 8:7, 19). There was a certain madness in Israel's heart. What they had done made no sense at all. To reject God was to reject their Savior! It is not simply the idea of a king, as such, that is condemned here. It is, rather, Israel's rejection of God. In other words, the request for a king was not simply a political request, an alternative arrangement for the affairs of state. The people had betrayed themselves with the words "that we also may be like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:20). Their desire for a king was in fact a desire to no longer be the Lord's people.

- Does God act unfairly when we reject Him? If so, how?

### MY KINGDOM COME:

➤➤ **10:19 So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans.** - Samuel gave them no hint of what was about to happen. At this point, however, it sounded as though it would be something terrible, a fitting punishment for the

## Notes

## Dig Deeper... Continued

apostasy behind the demand for a king.

The people of Israel being brought before the Lord by their tribes and by their thousands sounds very much like an occasion that had taken place some time earlier. Shortly after Israel had entered the promised land, they had found themselves threatened with punishment because of Achan's act of disobedience at Jericho (see Joshua 7, especially vv. 14, 16). Anyone who remembered that day may well have trembled as Samuel called the people to "present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes."

- When an individual did things his own way at the battle of Jericho God dealt with his disobedience by administering justice. Why do you think God didn't do the same thing here when it was the majority of the people?

### HOW GOD REVEALS THE CHOICE:

» **10:20 Was taken by lot** - The casting of lots was a common practice throughout the ancient world, and provision was made in Israel for the Lord's guidance to be given in this way. The land of Canaan was allocated by lot (Josh. 18:10); lots decided the fate of the two goats on the day of atonement (Lev. 16:8-10); and the culprit responsible for the defeat at Ai was discovered by the same method (Josh. 7:16-18). Decisions thus reached were accepted as final (Prov. 18:18), because the Lord was directing the outcome (Prov. 16:33). The last recorded use of the lot in Scripture is in Acts 1:26.

- Why do you think that God chose to reveal to the people His choice of Saul, when He had already told Samuel earlier?

» **10:23,24 He was a head taller than any of the others...There is no one like him among all the people** - Elsewhere in Scripture only noncovenant peoples are noted as being tall. Through the narrator's selection of this feature as the only attribute used to describe Saul, he successfully linked Saul with those who represent a threat to the safety and integrity of the Lord's covenantal people, and to the physical attribute associated with the kings around them.

- God could have chosen any of the Israelites to be the leader. What does it say about God that He chose one whose physique matched their human expectations?

- How does this experience reveal something new about God's character?

## My Prayer...

1. How am I rejecting God's leadership, and relying on human solutions?
2. How has God been unfair to me to my benefit?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

