

God Gives Israel a King

We want a lot of things in life. Some of those are good for us; some aren't. Some align with God's will for us, and some don't. Does God ever allow us to receive what we want, even though we will regret it one day? When we study the account of Israel's first king, Saul, we see what happens when God grants Israel's request to be like other nations and discover how God is faithful and sovereign, working behind the scenes even when his people make choices that don't align with his will.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever wanted something, then regretted getting it? Why? What happened? What was that experience like?
- What rights does a king or a monarchy have over the people?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God Gives Israel a King](#)

READ [1 Samuel 8:1-10:24](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- When Israel asked God to give them a king, they rejected God. In what ways might we similarly reject God like this today when we try to be like the world instead of choosing God and his will for us?
- Think about your own life and your community's life. When have you experienced seemingly ordinary events that, in hindsight, you can see God was active in?
- Saul repeatedly demonstrated his reluctant leadership by not telling his uncle about his anointing and by hiding. What are some other biblical examples of people who were hesitant to follow God's call? How do their experiences and outcomes compare and contrast with Saul's?
- Where in your life are you sitting with the tension right now between the "truths that the world is broken and that God is sovereign and good"?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#), [Isaiah 55:8-11](#), [Psalm 10](#), [Psalm 13](#)

CONCLUSION

God gives Israel a king as they request. Saul fits all the worldly expectations one would have for a king. Yet he demonstrated his hesitancy to answer God's call on his life, and his leadership remains fraught. But the accounts of Saul's kingship show us God's sovereignty and faithfulness, even when his people depart from his will. As he closes, host Darrell Delaney references the psalms of lament. Read Psalm 10 and 13 as examples. Write your own psalm of lament based on your current context using those psalms as a model, offering first your laments and concluding with faith in God's sovereignty.

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