



God is King

I Samuel tells of the shift from the nation being ruled by Judges to that of a king. Israel was supposed to be a theocracy, a kingdom ruled by God, and so the people's desire for a king was a rejection of God. Saul, the first king, did not learn the lesson that God is still king, and what matters for us is to remain faithful. Unfortunately, many people make the same mistake as Saul.

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/god-king/major-stories-bible>

Learners will:

- Discuss the meaning of Hannah's prayer and how it relates to us
- Review what it meant to ask for a King
- Discover what matters to God
- Understand what we received in the new covenant through Jesus Christ

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- The book of Samuel discusses the story around the birth of one of the greatest prophets, Samuel.
 - Hannah (Samuel's mother) was not able to conceive – barren
 - Went through ridicule for several years
 - Turned to God for deliverance – Her desperation caused her to pour out her heart to God so much that the priest thought she was drunk.
 - Hannah made a vow and kept it. She told God if he would give her a male child, she would lend to the Lord all the days of his life
 - Hannah's Praise – (1 Samuel 2:1-10) what did Hannah learn in God's intervention
 - Praise God with everything (saying praise God is not a praise)
 - Call to praise – vs1
 - Praise him (reaffirmation of the first commandment) – vs2
 - Used the metaphor of God as the rock describing who God is. vs2
 - Ultimate judge vs3
 - What God has done (7 things) vs4-8
 - Strong/weak
 - Full/hungry
 - Barren/Fruitful
 - Dead/Alive
 - Humble/Exalted
 - Sick/Well
 - Poor/Rich
 - God is in control. He will guard the feet of his saint but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. vs.9-10
 - Samuel comes on the scene and grows up in the house of the Lord

- Children of Israel asked for a King – (1 Samuel 8) There was no succession after Samuel. The people wanted out of the covenant with God. They rejected God as King (Theocracy) and moved into Monarchy.
 - They wanted to be like everyone else, even after all that God had done for them.
 - God didn't abdicate his throne, rule, control and authority just because they rejected him. God always was and will always be King.
 - Saul was select and anointed King but he was not faithful to the word of the Lord. The standard of success is measured by your faithfulness to the word of God.
 - Hesed – denotes steadfast, loyalty, faithfulness that exists within a relationship.
 - God entered into a relationship with His people; called a covenant.
 - If you live within the covenant, blessings (obedience) follows
 - If you refuse to live within the covenant, curse (disobedience) follows
 - Battle is not through human strength (not by might that one should prevail), God repeatedly shows us this in His word. Our God is a warrior!
 - All that matters is faith – without faith, it is impossible to please God
 - Believe who He says He is
- The children of Israel never got it; they were in a rebellious cycle...they never got it and couldn't get it right.
- Jesus had to come to do what no one else could do. He loved God perfectly.
- His death brought in the New Covenant and the power to love God. Jesus said told us it was best that he leave but he would not leave us alone. The Holy Spirit is here and gives us the power to love God, be faithful to God and obedient to Him.

[Small Group Activity]

Stories of the Bible CAYA Series

What is the standard of success?

Is God good all the time? Do you really believe that? What area(s) in your life do you need to align your belief that God is good all the time?

Does God have to compete for your affection? Hint? Where do you spend the majority of your time?

What does the New Covenant provide that the Old Testament could never do?