

God's Grand Story pt 9 – What God looks for on a resume

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

Church-Wide Prayer: Israel & Persecuted Church (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”

- Personal: Love God & people, make disciples is our job: Who can you share Jesus with?
- Pray for religious freedom in Canada. For Canadians to be able to practice, share, and live according to their beliefs.
- Pray for believers in North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea & Yemen (5 most persecuted). For them to know Jesus, to stay strong, to be bold and wise in their witness, to be loving towards those who persecute them.
- Israel: Pray for the release of hostages and for their families. Protection, freedom, strength.
- Israel: Pray for people in Gaza & Israel to know Jesus as Lord, for aid, hope, protection, love to abound in impossible situations.
- Israel: Pray against the growing antisemitism in the world & Church
- Pray for Jesus to return and establish his kingdom on the earth! MARANATHA

Intro: If we were to apply for a job in Christ's Kingdom. What qualities would Jesus look for?

God promised Abraham and Jacob that kings would come from their line! (Gen 17:6, 16; 35:11).

Genesis 49:10 (NIV) The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Nearly 800 years later we are introduced to a king who comes from the tribe of Judah – David.

Promise #2: Abrahamic Covenant: Great nation, Land, Blessing to the Nations. UNCONDITIONAL.

Promise #3: Mosaic Covenant: The laws & guidelines for REMAINING IN Promise #2. Blessings & Curses IF. CONDITIONAL.

A. Different Leaders for Different Stages

Over a period of some 400 years, God transitioned Israel through several types of leadership to move them forward through the Grand Story.

1. Prophet - Israel's first leader was a prophet, Moses.

This was the right kind of leadership for Israel at the start, for Moses' primary role was to deliver the Law and Covenant to them, and to teach Israel to obey God's Law as they wandered in the wilderness for forty years.

2. Military commander – Joshua led them to conquer Canaan, the land promised to Abraham.

Joshua was well-suited to be the military commander for this conquest because, under Moses, he had been charged to form Israel's first armies, and to lead them against the Amalekites (Ex 17:8-16); then

presumably against King Sihon and the Amorites (Nu 21:23-26), as well as against King Og of Bashan (Nu 21:33-35).

3. Judges – military/civilian leaders to deliver them from oppressors

After Joshua died. The kingdom was divided and continuously rebelled against God. God had warned them what would happen and he kept his word.

GOD JUDGED ISRAEL: The cycle would repeat itself: **discipline** through foreign invasion, followed by Israel's **repentance**, and then **rescue** from God who would raise up another **deliverer (judge)**.

Thirteen such judges ruled intermittently over a period of roughly 300 years (c. 1375-1050 BC).

Judges 17:6 (ESV) In those days there was no KING in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (cf. 21:25)

4. The Age of the Kings – to unite the Kingdom under God & His Commandments

Samuel was the last JUDGE and he was a PROPHET that God used to usher in the new age of Israel's existence... the age of the kings.

1 Samuel 8:4-7 *The elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah... "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." ...the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people... for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.*

The Problem was not the desire for a King. The problem was the TYPE OF KING they wanted!

God wanted a particular kind of King.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 "When you come to the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' you may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose.

B. The Resume for a King: The Peoples Choice vs God's Choice

What are the qualifications God looks for in leadership? this applies for every type of role we see in Scripture! What does the Lord require of us?

1 Samuel 16:7 For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

The peoples choice was a King like the NATIONS. They compared their situation with everyone else! What were they doing? How were they solving their problems? WE DO THIS TODAY.

Gods choice was a King with a HEART after his own! God already knew their need. Their need was RIGHT. Their solution was WRONG. God knows the right people for the right jobs.

Three things required: 1) Spirit Empowerment (POWER) 2) Skills & ability (OUTWARD) 3) Character & Heart (INWARD)

Comparing the Peoples Choice vs God's Choice!

Saul ended being a FAILURE as a King. David ended up being the King that was SUCCESSFUL. WHY?

IMPORTANT: God did choose Saul & He chose David. But with Saul, he was giving them what they wanted. He warned them of this in 1 Sam 8! "a King like the other nations"

1. Spirit Empowerment – power source

This cannot be overemphasized. Apart from the Spirit's work, we will accomplish nothing of REAL value.

Psalm 51 – David pleads with God to "take not thy Spirit from me!"

For example: when I was a kickboxer. My trainer, was AMAZING! He did such a good job training us. We could take punishment, and strike hard, and last forever. HOWEVER... he wouldn't stay with us in our corner during the RING! OUCH! **Major disadvantage.** You get used to hearing your trainers voice. Telling you to jab, cross, kick, etc. and suddenly he is GONE.

- This is the same with our Christian walk! We need the Spirits guidance and empowerment or we will start at a MAJOR DISADVANTAGE. An impossible one.
- **Matthew 19:26** But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Did God empower Saul? Did he choose him, then leave him on his own?

1 Samuel 10:6-9 Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

1 Samuel 16:14 "the Spirit of the Lord departed Saul"

- God chose Saul. According to what the PEOPLE WANTED. And then gave Saul his Spirit, and gave him the ABILITIES he needed.

BOTH DAVID & SAUL had SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT

2. Skill & Ability - OUTWARD

The people wanted a powerful looking man. Who would strike fear in their enemies and lead them in battle! (1 Sam 8)

1 Samuel 9:2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

Saul stood out. He looked like a King. He looked like a man. Tough and gruff. He would strike terror in their enemies!

In the skill and ability category: BOTH David & Saul were leaders, led military conquests, etc. they both had the skill to FUNCTION AS A KING.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

3. Character & Heart – INWARD

1 Samuel 13:14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

Remember the people looked at the outward appearance. Tallest & strongest, someone that stood out!

1 Samuel 16:1-13 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?”

And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

- “Jewish tradition says that David was treated as an illegitimate son by his family. This tradition points to Jesse and the brother’s treatment of him as evidence, as well as the psalm in which David says, “in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:5) interpreting that even David himself was convinced that he was born as an illegitimate child.” Thebiblesays commentary
- **Psalms 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

God is making a point in the Passage! He doesn’t need the tallest, the strongest, the firstborn, he doesn’t need a perfect family, he doesn’t need a perfect person, GOD LOOKS INSIDE AT THE HEART.

ON the outside: David was illegitimate. He was the youngest. Smallest. (qatan) He was just a shepherd. A lowly job. His brothers didn't like him. His father clearly didn't think highly of him. He was forgotten by man. Born into sin. NOT EVEN invited when they had a special guest over!

THIS IS THE ONE GOD CHOSE – WHY!?!?!?!?!?

Acts 13:19-22 ... he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'

OBEDIENCE: YES – John 14:5 if you love me, you will keep my commandments! To love God is to OBEY him

SIN: WAIT! Didn't they both SIN? YES! Horrific sins too! Sexual sins, murder, and more. This cannot be minimized.

One commentator wrote *"David was great because he was willing to overlook other peoples sins, but unwilling to overlook his own."*

What made David, a man after God's heart: He set his heart ON God & to do his will!

- Refused to take Sauls life and advance himself, even wept at his death. (2 Sam 24)
- Saul hurled spears at him and tried to kill him! David refused to do the same!
- Welcomed Abner when he left King Ishbosheth (2 Sam 1)
- In a day where Kings would kill members of other royal families to protect their line. David welcomed Mephibosheth, grandson of Saul. (2 Sam 9)
- Showed grace to Shimei's accusations and insults. (2 Sam 16, 19)
- When facing Absalom's rebellion, David instructed his army to be kind to him (2 Sam 18)
- **when confronted with his own sin...** David mourned, repented, and took it very seriously. But he was QUICK to forgive others and show grace.
- Nathan confronted David on his sin. David repents. (2 Sam 12)
- Joab confronts David on his behavior. David listens. (2 Sam 19)
- Davids response to his sinful census, "I have sinner greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted foolishly." **2 Sam 24:10**
 - **We judge ourselves by our intentions, and others by their actions.**
 - **David did the opposite. This is what we are called to be like!**

Character & Heart: DAVID WINS – Loved God, love people, forgave quickly, repented from sin and remained teachable and humble! SAUL: was quick to cover his sin, make excuses, and hold onto the sin in his life!

WHEN WE LACK GOOD CHARACTER & HEART – WE PUSH THE SPIRIT OUT OF OUR LIVES! SAUL!

1. **Spirit empowerment – all we need do is ASK! And turn from sin that would push him out!**
2. **Skill & ability – we can learn, grow, God can give the gifts needed!**

3. **Character & Heart – GOD leaves this on our laps. We get to CHOOSE what type of heart we have! He will help us in our choices – but he leaves the choice to us. Will we follow our OWN HEARTS like Saul? Or, will we follow HIS HEART like David?**

Last song & Examine your heart – do you respond more like David? Or, Saul?

1. **Personal sin – are you holding onto sin? Or actively turning from it?**
2. **How you treat others – Do you hold others to a higher standard than you hold yourself? Are you quick to forgive?**

Micah 6:8 *what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God*

CLOSE in PRAYER: AFTER SERVICE PRAYER → MARANATHA!

[AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM](#)

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers