

THE STORY
Standing Tall Falling Hard
Chapter 10 November 4, 2023
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In those days everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

The book of I Samuel opens with a prayer from Hannah

So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." I Samuel 3:9-10 NIV

If you accept God calling you He will lead you into what is next.

THE PEOPLE WANT A KING

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." I Samuel 8:4-5

Sometimes God gives the people what they want to show them it is not the best choice.

1. THEY CHOSE POWER OVER PURPOSE

God made a nation out of one family with a purpose in mind.

Who would you trust more to handle a tenth of all you have: A human King or God?

The temptation was to choose power for themselves and not the purpose of God.

God's ways are not our ways. We like to be in control.

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. Zechariah 4:6 NIV

They wanted to look like everyone else in the world.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES OVER SALVATION

*If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! 15 **But if you do not obey the Lord**, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors. I Samuel 12:14-15NIV*

When you are confronted by your circumstances, how do you respond? Do you pray for God to help you? Or do you power your way out of it?

3. OPTIONS OVER OBEDIENCE

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. 2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'" I Samuel 15:1-3 NIV

But Samuel replied:

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?

*To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

I Samuel 15:22 NIV

First follow Jesus and watch Him

When you have watched Him work you begin to believe in Him.

When you believe in Him you will obey Him.