The Fight For Our Nation

**3—GOD’S CHOSEN LEADER**

**Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. **9** “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**Isaiah 46:9–10 (NKJV)** Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’

**Daniel 2:20–22 (NKJV)** Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. **21** And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. **22** He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

**QUESTIONS**

1. **Does God ever choose leaders?**
2. **What happens when God chooses a leader? Does everything go smoothly from there?**
3. **Can you always tell by outward appearance who God has chosen?**
4. **Does God view things like we do?**
5. **Saul started off as a humble and good king.**

**1 Samuel 9:1–2 (NLT)** There was a wealthy, influential man named Kish from the tribe of Benjamin. He was the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** His son Saul was the most handsome man in Israel—head and shoulders taller than anyone else in the land.

**1 Samuel 9:17 (NLT)** When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, “That’s the man I told you about! He will rule my people.”

 **2. But at some point, Saul became corrupt and no longer listened to God.**

**1 Samuel 15:17–19 (NIV84)** Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. **18** And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.’ **19** Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”

**3. God now rejected Saul as his chosen king.**

**1 Samuel 15:23 (NLT)** Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

**4. God sought for a man after His own heart who would become king instead of those who were in line to take Saul’s place…**

**God said to Saul…**

**1 Samuel 13:14 (NIV84)** But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

1. **God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king.**

**1 Samuel 16:1 (NIV84)** The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

1. **Even Samuel wanted to anoint a different leader than God chose ... but God said…**

**1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV84)** …The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**7. So many years before he actually became king, God anointed David and began to raise him up.**

**1 Samuel 16:13 (NLT)** So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on…

**8. David rose in popularity before he became king, and had name recognition throughout the nation ... and among other nations.**

**1 Samuel 18:7 (NIV84)** As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”

**9. Saul became threatened by David’s popularity and confidence … he saw that he had the leadership and the popularity to become king instead of one of his own sons … so Saul tried to undermine David to thwart his rise to power.**

**1 Samuel 18:21 (GW)** Saul thought, “I’ll give her to David. She will trap him, and the Philistines will get him.” So he said to David a second time, “You will now be my son-in-law.”

**10. Saul (the establishment) tried to take him out before he could be installed.**

**1 Samuel 18:11 (ESV)** And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice.

**11. But God’s hand was on David, and nothing Saul tried against him worked … Saul tried to keep the power within his own sphere.**

**1 Samuel 20:30–31 (GNB)** Saul was furious with Jonathan and said to him, “How rebellious and faithless your mother was! Now I know you are taking sides with David and are disgracing yourself and that mother of yours! **31** Don’t you realize that as long as David is alive, you will never be king of this country? Now go and bring him here—he must die!”

**12. Saul used the nation’s intelligence apparatus and military to chase David down. Though it was scary and miserable for David, God protected him through it all.**

**1 Samuel 26:1–2 (NLT)** Now some men from Ziph came to Saul at Gibeah to tell him, “David is hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which overlooks Jeshimon.” **2** So Saul took 3,000 of Israel’s elite troops and went to hunt him down in the wilderness of Ziph.

**13. Finally Saul was removed from the throne.**

**1 Samuel 31:6 (NLT)** So Saul, his three sons, his armor bearer, and his troops all died together that same day.

**14. So David was made king…**

**2 Samuel 2:3–4 (NKJV)** And David brought up the men who were with him, every man with his household. So they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. **4** Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah…

**15. ... BUT unlike the previous king, David inherited a lot of bitter people who influenced the nation to be divided … so David was installed as king by the tribe of Judah, most of the kingdom would not serve under him ... instead, they chose to follow their own leaders from the previous administration, such as Abner and Ishbosheth.**

**2 Samuel 2:8–9 (ESV)** But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul’s army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, **9** and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel.

**16. During those years, there was something of a civil war between the two sides.**

**2 Samuel 3:1 (NIV84)** The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

**… The nation was divided like this for years ... 7 ½ to be exact**

**17. David was a warrior, and God used him to increase the safety and security of Israel from constant attacks coming from just across their southern border, the Philistines**.

**2 Samuel 8:1 (GNB)** Some time later King David attacked the Philistines again, defeated them, and ended their control over the land.

**18. God also strengthened David to win battles with outside nations, and through God’s favor on David and Israel’s increasing strength, even former enemies began to make peace agreements.**

**2 Samuel 8:1–6 (NLT)** After this, David defeated and subdued the Philistines … **Verse 2** David also conquered the land of Moab. **… Verse 3** David also destroyed the forces of Hadadezer **… Verse 5** When Arameans from Damascus arrived to help King Hadadezer, David killed 22,000 of them. **… Verse 6** So the Lord made David victorious wherever he went.

**19. Though David was chosen by God, and had found great favor with God, he fell into deep moral sin, and tried to cover it up which made it worse. This sin brought great pain to David and His family.**

**2 Samuel 11:27 (CEV)** **…** The Lord was angry at what David had done.

**2 Samuel 12:14 (NCV)** … what you did caused the Lord’s enemies to lose all respect for him…

**20. Though David genuinely repented of his sin before God, there is no record of him doing so publicly.**

**Psalm 51:1–3 (NLT)** Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. **2** Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. **3** For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.

**21. And then there was a well-orchestrated attempted coup to remove him from power ... and it looked like his reign would be over...**

**2 Samuel 15:6 (CEV)** That’s how he treated everyone from Israel who brought a complaint to the king. Soon everyone in Israel liked Absalom better than they liked David.

**2 Samuel 15:12 (NKJV**… And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number.

**22. It looked like it was over for David … but God caused the coup to unravel, and David after a heated battle, David was restored to power ... albeit with even more disgruntled “David haters.”**

**2 Samuel 19:40 (ESV)** **…** All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way.

**23. Under David’s leadership prosperity increased tremendously, which greatly continued under his son Solomon.**

**1 Kings 10:23, 27 (NKJV)** So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. **… Verse 27** The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones…

**24. And wouldn’t you know it, because of sin, a plague swept through the nation, and killed many people.**

**2 Samuel 24:15 (NKJV)** So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.

**25. And many years after David became king, God judged the sins of the previous administration finally came to judgment, and seven of Saul’s descendants were hanged for the sins of Saul.**

**2 Samuel 21:1 (NKJV)** Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, “It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house….”

**Isaiah 55:8 (NKJV)** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

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**LET’S PRAY FOR GOD’S WILL TO BE DONE IN OUR NATION**