

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 13: We Want a King! - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Samuel's sons did not walk in the way of the Lord and were led astray by dishonest gain, bribery and perverted justice. This prompted the elders to seek a king "like the other nations," to lead them. They had rejected God's anointed judges and desired to be led by a king like the nations around them. It is easy to become a product of your environment, this is the very issue God warned the Israelites to shun. He wanted them to be a light, a beacon of righteousness, amidst a land of darkness. Instead, they became dim and blended into the dark, sinful world in which they lived. The same is true of us today. Christ calls us to be different, sojourners in a land not our own. We are to be salt and light in a dark and bland world. God wants to rule our lives and live within us. When we reject His will and do our fleshly desires, are we not doing the same thing the Israelites did here? This is a serious object lesson for us today, one that cannot be ignored.

2. Seeing that the Israelites wanted a king "like the other nations," it would be fitting to place importance on the outer appearance of a king as to his fitness for the job. The rebellious Israelites chose tall and handsome Saul. Righteous God chose puny little David, a mere shepherd boy, for his humble heart. The contrast is blaring! It's interesting that in the Old Testament, height is analogous to spiritual evil (Anakim, Rephaim, Goliath, etc.). Were the Old Testament authors trying to convey the beginning of a spiritual warfare that would end with the reign of David, a man after God's own heart?

3. When the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts, He cleans our life up. His residence demands righteousness (John 3:3-8; Colossians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17). We are "metamorphized" into new creatures. In 1 Samuel 11:6 the Spirit of God took control of Saul and angered him. It seems like it was because of the lack of faith the Israelites exhibited in dealing with the people of Jabesh-Gilead.

4. Both Samuel and Joshua were considered prophets, or mouthpieces, of God. Both warned against worshipping idols of foreign gods like the surrounding nations. Both speeches encouraged the Israelites to follow God, obey His commandments and walk in His ways. Both men vowed to follow God. These are all testaments to us to do the same.

5. From Genesis to Revelation, the love of God towards His imagers is well documented. In return, all He desires is commitment to obey His commandments. To do so pleases the heart of God (2 Corinthians 5:9). Mere adherence to ritual does not cut it with God. The heart of man must be in the right state of humility and awe to even begin to worship a holy and righteous God.

6. The message is that God does not see what man sees. He knows the hearts of men (even David knew this in the Psalms). God does not judge people by their outer appearances, neither should we.

7. Goliath represented evil; David represented righteousness. David was not fearful of Goliath's outer appearance. He did not trust in his own abilities, but he had total trust in the Lord to win His battle. Every day we all experience the battle between good and evil playing out in our hearts and minds. Being filled with the Spirit of God gives us confidence that we can overcome the evil that tries to reign inside us.

8. Even though Saul pursued David and wanted to kill him, David saw Saul for who he really was, the anointed King of Israel, a servant of the Most High God. He, therefore, was adamant that he not be harmed. Even in the face of adversity, God's provident hand can be seen working. Romans 8:28 reminds us that we can still learn about God and trust in Him in the midst of adversity, much like David did.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

To combat envy, or any sin for that matter, one must be close to Jesus by constantly being in His Word, praying on a consistent basis, and employing the help of close friends (Iron sharpens Iron).

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

David's slaying Goliath is one of the most famous events in the Bible. The unwavering faith that David placed in God was a direct result of his relationship with God. His relationship was built on quoting God's Word, praying continuously and reflecting on the goodness God has to offer.

3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

Like God who saw past the outer appearances of David's brothers in his anointing, we need to develop the habit of looking past the outer and into the inner of a person. This skill is not developed overnight and must be practiced on a daily basis to stay true to God's Word.

