

MANNA AND MERCY



An Interactive Edition for Kids

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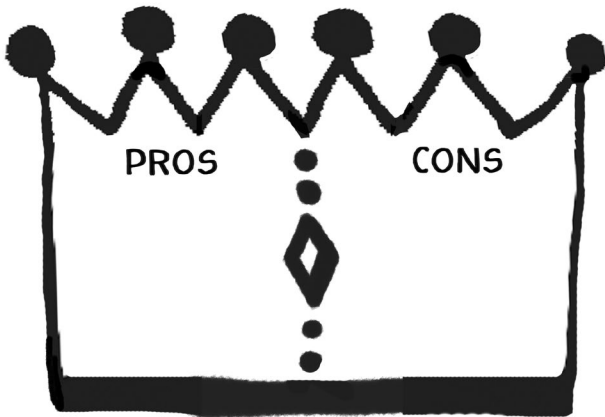
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CHAPTER 6: WE WANT A KING

During the early days of Israel, the partner people mostly lived happily. Sometimes they stumbled and rejected their faith, but they always returned to God. They avoided dividing the people between rich and poor, haves and have-nots. But besides keeping themselves in line, they had to worry about the neighboring people bothering them, stealing from them, and attacking them.

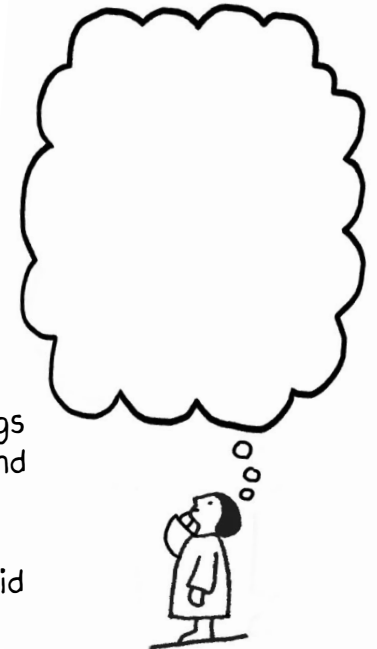


[1 SAM 8, DEUT 17:14-20]



The people who wanted a king were in the majority, but God did not wish for a king for the people. God wished the people would continue to live the manna way.

Finally God gave in. God and a man named Samuel worked to find a king who would be faithful to God and the teachings of the wilderness school. God and Samuel hoped it would work.



What do you think? A king or no king for Israel? Jot down your pros and cons.

God and Samuel picked Saul to be the first king. Under Saul, Israel did not turn into a divided society of Big Deals and oppressed peoples. But Saul created other problems. They decided to pick another king, so God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse. One by one, his handsome, muscular sons who were warriors were paraded past Samuel. But none of them seemed just right. When Samuel discovered that one son the youngest brother was in the fields watching the family's sheep, Samuel sent for young David. Then Samuel surprised everyone when he announced that God chose David. David would be the new king!



How do you stay strong when everyone around you is living differently than how you think God wants you to live?

What qualities should a king of God's people have? Write your descriptive phrases below.

kind

fair

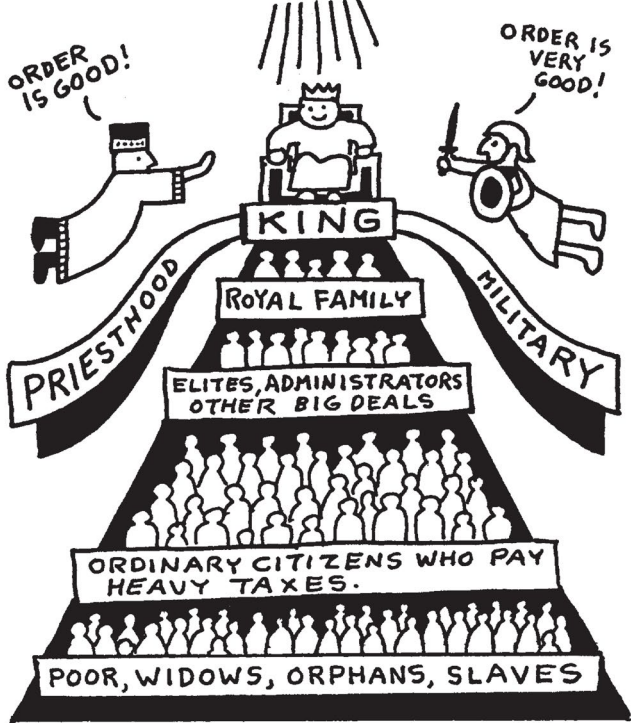
just

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

God loved David. King David usually followed the teachings given to the partner people to set them apart from all other nations. When David sinned, which he definitely did, he asked God for forgiveness.

God imagined generations of faithful kings leading the manna people wisely and gently, practicing justice and mercy, and recognizing that no matter what, God was in charge.

God Image of order and stability



God's hope did not work out. During the time of King Solomon, the worst fears of the anti-king people came true. Turning from the manna way, King Solomon and his friends made piles of money and gold for themselves. They forced some people to work without pay. Others paid heavy taxes to support Solomon's seven hundred wives,

1 KINGS 10:14-22

his collection of apes and baboons, an army, and the building of a palace.



People must be related to prairie dogs.

Yup. They just keep digging holes for themselves.

God wept, and all creation wept because. . .

Israel had become what Israel had left...
Pharaoh's Egypt.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

?? ???? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?