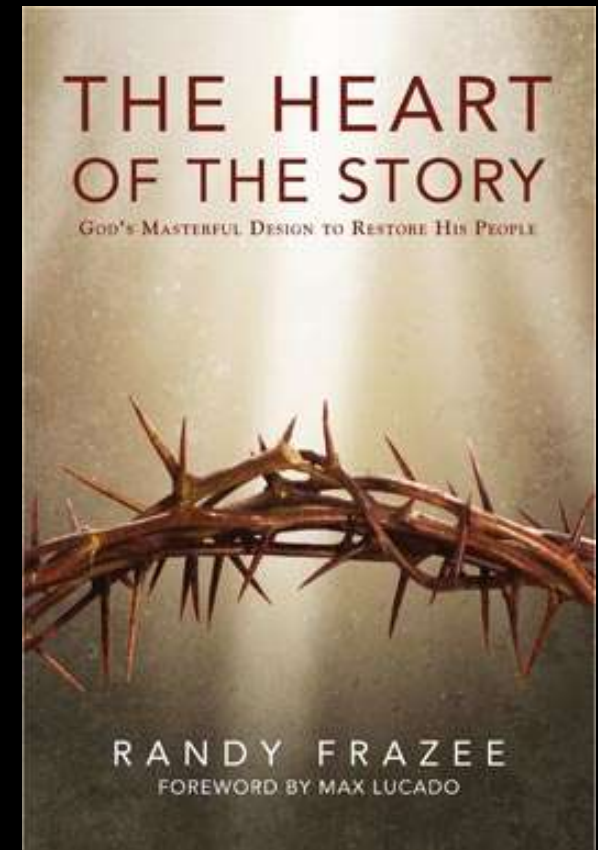


# The Heart of the Story

Chapter 10: Royal Obedience

December 7, 2011





# Israel in Middle School

- *“...it’s not just school kids who want to fit in. The Children of Israel went through their own middle school phase, since all they could think about was being like everyone else.” (p.p. 97-98)*



# Hannah, Samuel, & Eli



# A Broken Record

- *“By now, it’s probably starting to sound like the proverbial broken record. Just when things settle down and God’s people are behaving themselves, they fall off the wagon.”*  
(p. 98)



# Right Diagnosis...Wrong Solution

- *“Your sons do you follow your ways; now appoint us a king.” (p. 99)*



# Why a King?

- The real reason: *“Then we will be like all the other nations.”* (p.99)
- *“Kings could make decisions on the spot; religious leaders checked in with God first and conferred among themselves.”* (p.99)



# God in the Lower Story

- *“He always prefers that in our Lower Story we do things his way, not because he has to have his way but because he loves us. He knows that his way will always make our lives better, and this is all he has ever wanted for his special nation.” (p. 100)*



# The Presidential Look



# A farewell speech...

- VIDEO- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF-6TNj30BU>



# A short memory...

- *“Saul takes the reins as king and promptly forgets everything Samuel said.”* (p. 101)
- *“To obey is better than sacrifice.”* (p. 101)

# Two Upper Story Messages

- #1- *“While it is true the God is merciful, he is also just. He will always welcome us back, but he will not protect us from the consequences of our rejection of his ways.”* (p. 102)
- Luke 15:11-32
- Matthew 25:31-46

# Two Upper Story Messages

- #2- *“God’s people are called to be different, to stand out in contrast to others by reflecting his very character. Saul not only disobeyed God, but his actions misrepresented God.”* (p. 102)

# Good Works

- Who are good works for?
- *“Good works must be excluded from any questions of salvation as well as from the article on our justification before God”*
  - F.C.Ep. IV 7
- *“Faith must be the mother and the source of those truly good and God-pleasing works.”*
  - F.C. S.D. IV 9

# Good Works

- Who are good works for?

# Good Works

- Who are good works for?
- Good works are a 'fruit of faith' flowing from its connection to Jesus Christ; performed in love for Christ and in agreement with God's word.

# Good Works

- Who are good works for?
- Our good works serve to tell others of the faith that has been given to us and are done not for our own benefit, but to be an outward expression of what has already taken place inside of us.

# Good Works

- Who are good works for?



# Good Works

- *“Most of the people in our world will get their take on God from us. We may be the only Bible they ever ‘read.’ Our interactions with them may be all they glimpse of God’s grand design in his Upper Story.” (p. 102)*