

1 Samuel 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Analysis

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

The parade of sons before Samuel mirrors ancient processes of selection and elimination. Abinadab, whose name means 'my father is noble/generous,' represented family honor and lineage. Yet noble ancestry could not substitute for divine election. The repeated rejection of externally qualified candidates emphasized that God's choice would transcend human logic and social expectations.

Historical Context

Jesse's sons appear in different numbers across biblical texts - eight here, but seven in 1 Chronicles 2:13-16. Some scholars suggest one son may have died young or been a stepson. The sons likely ranged in age from late teens to thirties, all of military age and potential leadership material by human standards.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do repeated 'no' answers from God prepare us for the right 'yes'?
2. What family credentials or background have you relied upon that God may be setting aside?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרָא אֶל	יֵשׁוּעַ	אֲבִינָדָב	וַעֲבַר הוּא	לִפְנֵי י	שְׁמוּאֵל
called	Then Jesse	H413 Abinadab	and made him pass	before	Samuel
H7121	H3448	H41	H5674	H6440	H8050
וַיֹּאמֶר	גַּם	בֶּן הָ	לֹא	בְּחֵר	יְהוָה:
And he said	H1571	H2088	H3808 chosen	H977 Neither hath the LORD	H3068
H559					

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 17:13 (Parallel theme): And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.