

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

Psalm 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

שָׁמֹאָה לְלַפְתִּי תַּעֲבֹר הָאָבִי בְּאַלְיָהָא
called Then Jesse H413 Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel
H7121 H3448 H41 H5674 H6440 H8050

לֹא בָּנָה גַּם בְּנֵי אָמָר
And he said H1571 H2088 H3808 chosen Neither hath the LORD
H559 H977 H3068

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.

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