

# WHAT'S IN A SONG?

By Sally Campbell



## Good and Gracious King

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Long ago, in the age of kings, there was a nation, set apart from all the rest. Instead of a king, they followed God, who did everything a king did, only better. They were God's people and he led them through the Judges, he revealed himself to them through the Prophets, he protected them, and provided for them by his mighty hand.

The people worshipped their God with thankful hearts for a time. But as time passed, new judges appeared on the scene; ones who had forgotten God and turned to more self-centered ways. The people became tired and frustrated with the abuse and determined their own solution, crying out for a king to rule over them so life would be fair again<sup>1</sup> Even though their solution seemed reasonable, this was just another rejection of God, as the people had done in the past when life got hard.<sup>2</sup> But, God is patient and loves his children. He sought to explain the behaviour of the kings that would come to rule them – they will take your children into service, take your lands to plow and feed their armies, take the best of what you have and give to those in their inner circle. But despite this probability, the people insisted on a king to rule over them<sup>3</sup>. So, God deferred to their choice and gave them a king. History has revealed just how well this has played out down through time.

It is now the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the age of kings has long since past. Today's remaining monarchies are heritage landowners and national figureheads, wielding little, if any power. As the years have progressed, people grew weary of monarchs, opting for republics and democracies, with a few dictatorships and fascist states sprinkled in (which could be argued is a kind of "king" thing). Back in the beginning God pleaded with his people. He warned them that what they were asking for would change their lives forever. God cared for them and had their best interest at heart, making him strikingly different from other kings of the world. Still, the people willingly traded their freedom in God for oppression and servitude.

Today, *having gained vast wisdom and learned our lessons well*, we proudly proclaim **WE BOW TO NO ONE!** Now we smirk at the idea of monarchy, viewing it as antiquated, medieval, and no longer necessary. Instead, we have moguls, oligarchs, charismatic politicians, and businessmen building their own kingdoms and believing themselves above the law. We have top tier athletes, rock stars and pop stars, Elvis, entertainment personalities and "trend setters", to whom we have built altars to, captivating our day-to-day thoughts and conversations. Perhaps there is even a silent wish to have a piece of that pie. Now, instead of following one king, everybody can be king and rule the world. It's easy to see how the concept of king has become meaningless. The challenge is finding a mere mortal that is not corrupted by power.

Yet, God is still on the throne as the original King of the world he has made. To follow this King is to willingly recognize his ways of love, leading and provision as gifts to us. Christ the King paid our price and ransomed us from the darkness we walked into. He bears our burdens and deals with us in grace and mercy. He is holy and mighty, but he is kind and loving. He is just and wise, but gentle and patiently guides our understanding. He is "in need of nothing", yet he still wishes for us to live in communion with him. We can approach the throne of Glory with nothing, but by acceptance of his salvation, we have peace with God. You can't get that kind of privilege with any other king.

***You deserve the greater glory. Overcome with joy I sing. By your love I am accepted. You're a good and gracious King.***

[https://youtu.be/NnExXYToQUo?si=bK-96rXlwFGF\\_roL](https://youtu.be/NnExXYToQUo?si=bK-96rXlwFGF_roL)

1. 1 Samuel 8:5 (NKJV)

2. 1 Samuel 8:7 (NKJV)

3. 1 Samuel 8:11-19, 22 (NKJV)