

1 Samuel 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

Analysis

And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

Samuel's prophetic indictment is severe: requesting a king constituted rejecting God (ma'as, a strong term implying spurning or despising). The emphatic 'who himself' (hu asher) stresses God's personal agency in their deliverance - not distant providence but direct intervention. Their response to such salvation was 'Nay' (lo'), a flat contradiction. The word for 'adversities' (ra'ot) and 'tribulations' (tsarot) encompasses the full range of distresses God had resolved. Yet despite this indictment, God proceeds with the selection - demonstrating how He works even through sinful human choices. The command to 'present yourselves' (hityatsvu) by tribes and thousands (military units of 1,000) follows the organizational structure of the wilderness generation, connecting this moment to covenantal assembly patterns. God's anger does not prevent His gracious accommodation to human weakness.

Historical Context

Israel's tribal and military organization dated from the wilderness period when Moses structured the nation for both encampment and warfare. The 'thousands' (alaphim) were military-administrative units, typically extended families or clans capable of fielding fighting forces.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How might we 'reject' God while pursuing things He actually permits?
2. What does God's willingness to work through Israel's sinful request teach about His grace?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	אֱלֹהִיךְ	מִאָתָה	מִאָתָה	בְּיֹם	וְאַתָּה
H859	And ye have this day	H3117	rejected	H3988	your God
					H1931
who himself saved	מִשְׁעָנָךְ	לְכָם	מִכָּל	מִשְׁעָנָךְ	you out of all your adversities
H3467	H0	H3605		H7451	
and your tribulations	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה
H6869		H559	H0	H3588	H7760
by your tribes	לְשָׁבָטִים	וְאַתָּה	לְשָׁבָטִים	לְפָנֶיךְ	לְפָנֶיךְ
H7626	H6258	over us Now therefore present	הַחִיאָבוּ	יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים	the LORD
		H3320		H6440	H3068
and by your thousands	וְלְאֶלְףִּים				
	H505				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 12:12 (Kingdom): And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God was your king.

Joshua 24:1 (References God): And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

1 Samuel 8:19 (Kingdom): Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;