

# 1 Samuel 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

## Analysis

**And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.**

The people's demand to execute those who had questioned Saul's kingship (10:27) reveals the dangerous mixture of zealotry and mob mentality that military victory can produce. They seek to vindicate the new king through blood vengeance rather than mercy. The Hebrew muth ('put to death') indicates they desired formal execution, not lynch mob violence. This moment tests whether Saul will rule by grace or revenge, by wisdom or populist passion.

## Historical Context

The doubters of 1 Samuel 10:27, called 'sons of Belial,' had questioned Saul's ability to save Israel. Their skepticism, while faithless, was understandable given the chaotic period of judges. Capital punishment for political opposition was common in ancient Near Eastern monarchies but was not established practice in Israel.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How should leaders respond to those who doubted them once vindication comes?
2. What dangers arise when military victory produces desire for vengeance against internal critics?

## Interlinear Text

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רַאֲמֵן	בְּעֵם	אֶל	לְשֹׁמְאֵל	מִ	רַאֲמֵן
Who is he that said	And the people	H413	unto Samuel	H4310	Who is he that said
H559	H5971		H8050		H559
וְאָנֹשֶׁן	יְמִלְּךָ	לְעֵל	לְעֵל	וְאָנֹשֶׁן	וְאָנֹשֶׁן
Shall Saul	reign	H5921	over us bring	H376	
H7586	H4427		H5414		
לְתַמִּיתָם:					
that we may put them to death					
H4191					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 10:27** (Parallel theme): But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

**Luke 19:27** (Kingdom): But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

**Psalms 21:8** (Parallel theme): Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.

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