

1 Samuel 12:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

Analysis

And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

Samuel's farewell address marks the formal transition from theocratic judgeship to monarchy. His opening 'Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice' contains subtle rebuke - he granted their request for a king despite knowing it reflected rejection of divine rule (8:7). By emphasizing his compliance, Samuel prepares to contrast his faithful service with the uncertain future of human kingship. The phrase 'made a king over you' places responsibility for this choice squarely on Israel.

Historical Context

Samuel's address follows ancient Near Eastern covenant-renewal patterns, similar to Moses' farewell in Deuteronomy. As the last judge, Samuel bridges two eras of Israelite governance. His public vindication ceremony established a precedent for accountability that kings would be expected to follow.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do faithful leaders handle transitions, especially when the new direction was not their preference?
2. What can we learn from Samuel's willingness to serve despite disagreeing with the people's choice?

Interlinear Text

מִמְרָתֶךָ	אֲמִרָתֶךָ	שְׁמֹאֵל	אֶל	כָל	לְ	יִשְׁרָאֵל	הָבָה
in all that ye said	And Samuel	H413	H3605	unto all Israel	H3478		H2009
H559	H8050						
עַמְתִּיךְ	לְ	בְּקָלְךָ	אֲשֶׁר	לְ	עַמְתִּיךְ	לְ	הָבָה
Behold I have hearkened	unto your voice	H3605	H834	in all that ye said	H559		H0
H8085	H6963						
מֶלֶךְ	עַלְיךָ	מֶלֶךְ	יְה				
unto me and have made		H5921	H4428	a king			
H4427							

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:24 (Kingdom): And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

1 Samuel 10:1 (Parallel theme): Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

