

1 Samuel 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

Analysis

And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

The confession Samuel recalls - 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth' - represents the proper response to divine discipline. The acknowledgment of specific sins (forsaking Yahweh, serving Canaanite fertility deities) demonstrated genuine repentance. Their plea 'deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee' shows understanding that deliverance obligates covenant loyalty. This pattern of confession and deliverance should have guided Israel's current crisis.

Historical Context

Baalim (plural of Baal) and Ashtaroth (plural of Ashtoreth/Astarte) were Canaanite fertility deities. Worship of these gods involved sacred prostitution and sometimes child sacrifice. Israel's repeated syncretism reflected agricultural anxieties and desire to ensure crop fertility through pagan rituals.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Does your repentance include specific confession and commitment to changed behavior?
 2. How does genuine repentance differ from simply wanting relief from consequences?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Judges 10:10 (Sin): And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim.

Judges 2:13 (References Lord): And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

Judges 3:7 (References Lord): And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Judges 3:9 (References Lord): And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

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