

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיִּזְעֻקוּ וַ	אֵל	יְהוָה ה	וַיֹּאמֶר	חָטָאנוּ	כִּי
And they cried	H413	the LORD	and said	We have sinned	H3588
H2199		H3068	H559	H2398	
עַל כֵּנוּ	אֶת	יְהוָה ה	וַנַּעֲבֹדָהּ:	אֶת	הַבְּעֻלִּים יִם
because we have forsaken	H853	the LORD	and have served	H853	Baalim
H5800		H3068	H5647		H1168
וְאֶת	הָעַשְׂתָּרֹת וְ	וְעַתָּה ה	הַצִּילֵנוּ	מִיָּד	אֹיְבֵינוּ
H853	and Ashtaroth	H6258	but now deliver	us out of the hand	of our enemies
H6252		H5337	H3027		H341
וַנַּעֲבֹדָהּ:					
and have served					
H5647					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 forgot 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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