

1 Samuel 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

Analysis

Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

Samuel presents an inescapable paradox: 'behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired' - yet also 'the LORD hath set a king over you.' Human choice and divine sovereignty intersect in Israel's monarchy. God grants their request while incorporating it into His larger purposes. The word 'desired' (sha'al) echoes Saul's name and the verb used for 'asking' for a king (8:10). Israel got exactly what they asked for - which carries both promise and warning.

Historical Context

The tension between human agency and divine sovereignty in Saul's selection reflects broader biblical themes. God worked through Israel's sinful request to establish the monarchy that would eventually produce David's line and ultimately the Messiah, while allowing immediate consequences of their choice.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God work through our imperfect choices to accomplish His purposes?
2. What warnings should accompany getting exactly what we asked for?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּמִרְכָּבָה
Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen
H6258 H2009 H4428 H834 H977

אֲשֶׁר שָׁאַלְתֶּם נָתַת־יְהֹוָה הָיְהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ
and whom ye have desired hath set and behold the LORD
H834 H7592 H2009 H5414 H3068

עַלְיכֶם מֶלֶךְ
Now therefore behold the king
H5921 H4428

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 13:11 (Kingdom): I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.

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 8:5 (Kingdom): And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

