

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

הַיְהוָה	הַיְהוָה	מֶלֶךְ:	אֲשֶׁר	בְּחַרְתֶּם
H6258	H2009		H834	H977
		Now therefore behold the king		whom ye have chosen
		H4428		
אֲשֶׁר	שָׁאַלְתֶּם	יְהוָה	נָתַן	יְהוָה
H834		H2009	H5414	H3068
	and whom ye have desired		hath set	and behold the LORD
	H7592			
עָלֶיךָ	מֶלֶךְ:			
H5921				
	Now therefore behold the king			
	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.

