

1 Samuel 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

Analysis

If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

Samuel presents the covenant conditions for success: 'If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD.' Four positive requirements cluster around wholehearted covenant loyalty. The promise that 'both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God' makes clear that king and people share the same conditional status before God. No human king stands above the covenant; all are equally accountable to the divine King.

Historical Context

This conditional covenant formula echoes Deuteronomy's blessings and curses (Deuteronomy 28). Samuel applies the Mosaic covenant directly to the new monarchical situation, establishing that kingship operates within, not above, covenant requirements.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do these four requirements - fearing, serving, obeying, not rebelling - apply to your life?
2. What does it mean that leaders and followers share equal accountability before God?

Interlinear Text

אִם H518	וְיִירָא וְ H3372	אֶת H853	יְהוָה H3068	וְעָבַדְתָּ H5647	אֹתוֹ H853	וְשָׁמַעְתָּ H8085
	If ye will fear		of the LORD	and serve		him and obey
וּ H6963	בְּקוֹל וְ H3808	וְלֹא H4784	תִּמְרָו H854	אֶת H6310	פִּי י H3068	יְהוָה H3068
	his voice		and not rebel	against the commandment		of the LORD
וְהָיָה H1961	גַּם H1571	אֶתְּ H859	וְגַם H1571	הַמֶּלֶךְ H4428	אֲשֶׁר H834	
	then shall both ye and also the king					
מֶלֶךְ H4427	עָלֶיךָ H5921	אֲמַר H310	יְהוָה H3068	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם H430		
that reigneth		over you continue following	of the LORD	your God		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:14 (References God): Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

Isaiah 3:10 (Parallel theme): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Joshua 24:20 (References God): If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

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