

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

אֲשֶׁר לְגַת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ כָּל־עַמּוֹת וְאֶת־מֶלֶךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ כָּל־עַמּוֹת

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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