

1 Samuel 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Analysis

But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

The negative counterpart presents parallel consequences: disobedience brings 'the hand of the LORD against you, as it was against your fathers.' The phrase 'fathers' recalls the judges-era pattern where disobedience led to oppression. Samuel warns that monarchy provides no exemption from this principle. The same God who disciplined their ancestors will discipline them regardless of political structure. The form of government cannot protect against consequences of covenant violation.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated repeatedly that military defeat and foreign domination followed spiritual apostasy (Judges 2:11-15). The pattern was not arbitrary punishment but natural consequence of abandoning the source of their protection. Samuel warns this pattern will continue under monarchy.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Do we assume that better structures or leaders will protect us from consequences of disobedience?
2. How does God's consistency in dealing with His people provide both warning and comfort?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	וּמְרִיטָה	מִן	בְּקָרְבָּן	וְלֹא	תִּשְׁמַעְתָּ	לְאַם	וְאַם
H854	H4784	H8085	H6963	H3068	H8085	H3808	H518
but rebel	but	the voice	the	of the LORD	obey	if ye will not	against
H3068	H4784	H6963	H3068	H8085	H3808	H518	H6310
of the LORD	the hand	then shall the hand	of the LORD	the	the	the	the
H3068	H3027	H1961	H3068	H3068	H3068	H3068	H3068
against the commandment	of the LORD	of the	of the	of the	of the	of the	of the
H6310	H3068	H3068	H1961	H3068	H3068	H3068	H3068
be against you as it was against your fathers							
H0	H1						

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:20 (References Lord): 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.

Isaiah 1:20 (Word): But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 3:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

1 Samuel 12:9 (References Lord): And when they forgat the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org