

1 Samuel 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

Analysis

And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

The people's terrified response - begging Samuel to 'Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not' - shows they correctly interpret the sign as divine judgment. Their confession 'we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king' finally acknowledges what Samuel has argued: the monarchy request compounded previous covenant violations. The phrase 'thy God' (not 'our God') may reflect their sense of alienation from God, requiring Samuel's mediation.

Historical Context

Intercessory prayer by prophets and priests was understood as essential mediation between God and people. Moses' intercession had repeatedly saved Israel from destruction (Exodus 32:11-14; Numbers 14:13-19). The people now look to Samuel to fulfill this same role.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When have you finally recognized that your 'solution' was actually another sin added to previous ones?
2. How does recognition of sin lead to seeking godly intercession?

Interlinear Text

בְּعֵד הַתִּפְלֵל לְשָׁמוֹאֵל בְּעֵד
said H3605 And all the people H413 unto Samuel H8050 Pray H1157
H559 H5971 H408 H6419

כִּי בְּמִתְּמִתְּנִתְּנָה יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים יְהִי
for thy servants H413 unto the LORD H3068 thy God H430 that we die H3588
H5650 H408 H4191

לֹא לְשָׁא לְבַעַת יְהִי הַמְּטָאת יְהִי
not for we have added H3254 unto all our sins H2403 this evil H7451 to ask H0
H5921 H3605 H2403 H7592

מֶלֶךְ:
us a king
H4428

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 9:28 (References Lord): Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.

1 John 5:16 (Prayer): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Exodus 10:17 (Prayer): Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only.

1 Samuel 12:23 (Prayer): Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

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