

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

בְּעַד	הַתְּפִלָּה	לְ	שְׁמוּאֵל	לְ	אֶל	הָעָם	כָּל	וַיֹּאמֶר ו
	Pray		unto Samuel			And all the people		said
H1157	H6419		H8050		H413	H5971	H3605	H559
כִּי	נָמּוּת	וְ	אֵל	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	יְהוָה	אֶל	עֲבָדֶיךָ	לְ
	that we die			thy God	unto the LORD		for thy servants	
H3588	H4191		H408	H430	H3068	H413	H5650	
לְנוֹ	לְשֹׂאֵל	לְ	רָעָה	הַ	חַטָּאתֵינוּ	כָּל	עַל	וְ
	to ask		this evil		unto all our sins		not for we have added	
H0	H7592		H7451		H2403	H3605	H5921	H3254
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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