

1 Samuel 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

Analysis

And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

Samuel's reference to his gray head and his sons walking 'before you' contains painful admission - his own sons' corruption partly motivated Israel's demand for a king (8:3-5). By acknowledging both his age and his sons' presence, Samuel demonstrates transparent honesty about the situation's complexity. His lifelong service 'from my childhood unto this day' establishes his credentials to speak with authority about Israel's relationship with God.

Historical Context

Samuel's sons Joel and Abijah had been appointed judges in Beersheba but took bribes and perverted justice (8:1-3). Their misconduct paralleled Eli's sons' earlier corruption, creating a pattern of priestly/judicial failure that contributed to demands for monarchical reform.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should leaders acknowledge their family's failures while maintaining ministry credibility?
2. What responsibility do aging leaders have to prepare successors and speak truth to the next generation?

Interlinear Text

הַתְּבַלֵּכְתִּי
בְּמַלְכֵנוּ
הַבָּהִיעַת
הַמְּלִיכָה
H6258 H2009 And now behold the king are with you and I have walked
H4428 H1980

לפניך מ	אתך י	הַבָּם	תִּאֵן	יְלֹךְ גָּתִי	יְשַׁבְּתִי	יְלֹךְ גָּתִי	תִּאֵן	לִפְנֵיכֶךָ	מִבְּרָא
before	H589	you and I am old		and grayheaded		and behold my sons			H2009
H6440		H2204		H7867		H1121			

מִבְּנָבָר יְהוָה תִּהְלֶל כְּתִי תִּאְתֵּן לְפָנֵיכֶם אֶתְכֶם מִבְּנָבָר יְהוָה תִּהְלֶל כְּתִי תִּאְתֵּן לְפָנֵיכֶם אֶתְכֶם
H584 H589 are with you and I have walked before you from my childhood
H1980 H6140 H5271

עַד עַתָּה וּמִמִּזֶּה H5704 unto this day H2088 H3117

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 8:5 (Kingdom): And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 8:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

1 Samuel 8:20 (Kingdom): That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

Numbers 27:17 (Parallel theme): Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.

1 Samuel 8:3 (Parallel theme): And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

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