

1 Samuel 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Analysis

For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Here Samuel reveals the foundation of hope: 'the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake.' Israel's security rests not on their faithfulness but on God's commitment to His own reputation (shem). The phrase 'because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people' grounds election in divine initiative and delight, not human merit. God's choice created obligations He freely assumed. This theology of grace anticipates Paul's argument in Romans 9-11 about God's irrevocable call.

Historical Context

Divine name theology appears throughout the Old Testament (Ezekiel 36:22-23). God acts for His name's sake - His reputation among the nations - which is tied to Israel's existence as His chosen people. This provides security even when Israel deserves abandonment.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to His own reputation provide security for His people?
2. What comfort comes from knowing your standing with God rests on His choice, not your performance?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:2 (References Lord): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Philippians 1:6 (Parallel theme): Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Psalms 106:8 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

1 Kings 6:13 (Parallel theme): And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

Joshua 7:9 (Parallel theme): For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

Isaiah 43:25 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Jeremiah 14:21 (Parallel theme): Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.

Romans 11:29 (Parallel theme): For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Psalms 94:14 (References Lord): For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Ephesians 1:12 (Parallel theme): That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.