

1 Samuel 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Analysis

Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Samuel's final exhortation synthesizes his entire message: 'Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart.' The word 'Only' (rak) emphasizes exclusivity - Yahweh alone deserves ultimate allegiance. 'Truth' (emet) connotes reliability and faithfulness, not merely doctrinal accuracy. The motivation - 'consider how great things he hath done for you' - grounds obedience in gratitude for grace. Biblical ethics flow from redeemed relationship, not mere duty. Remembrance of salvation produces covenant faithfulness.

Historical Context

This verse summarizes Deuteronomic theology: exclusive Yahweh worship, wholehearted service, and obedience motivated by remembrance of divine salvation. Samuel applies Israel's foundational theology to the new monarchical context.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does meditating on 'great things' God has done produce faithful service?
2. What does it mean to serve God 'in truth' as opposed to mere external compliance?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָל	בְּאָמֵת	תִּתְעַבְּדָת	מִ	אַתָּה	יְהִי	הָ	אַתָּה	ירְאֹה	אַתָּה	תִּירְאֶה
H3605	H853	H5647	H853	H3068	H3372	H389	H571	H3588	H853	H1431
Only fear	the LORD	and serve	him in truth				how great things he hath done	for consider	as I	לְבָבֶךָ מִ
H3824	H3608	H5647	H571					H7200	H853	לְבָבֶךָ מִ
with all your heart										הָגְדָּה לְ

עַמְקָם:

H5973

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:21 (Parallel theme): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Isaiah 5:12 (References Lord): And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands.

Proverbs 1:7 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Hebrews 12:29 (Parallel theme): For our God is a consuming fire.

Psalms 111:10 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Exodus 12:13 (Parallel theme): And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Parallel theme): Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Psalms 119:80 (Parallel theme): Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

Job 28:28 (References Lord): And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Romans 12:1 (Parallel theme): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.