

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

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.