

1 Samuel 12:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

Analysis

But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

Samuel's concluding warning maintains covenant conditionality: 'if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.' The inclusion of 'your king' emphasizes that monarchy provides no escape from covenant consequences. The Hebrew saphah ('consumed' or 'swept away') denotes complete destruction. This solemn warning frames all of Israel's subsequent monarchical history and prophetically anticipates the exile that would eventually fulfill it. Hope and warning together characterize biblical preaching.

Historical Context

This warning was fulfilled ultimately in 586 BC when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and ended the monarchy. The prophets would repeatedly cite Israel's covenant violations as explanation for national catastrophe. Samuel's warning established the theological framework for interpreting Israel's monarchical history.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How should sobering warnings balance encouraging promises in Christian proclamation?
2. What does the eventual fulfillment of Samuel's warning teach about the seriousness of covenant faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם	תִּהְיֶה עוֹ	תִּהְיֶה עוֹ	גַּם	אֶתְּ דָּ	גַּם
H518	But if ye shall still	But if ye shall still	H1571	H859	H1571
	H7489	H7489			
	וְלִמְלֶכְךָ	תִּשְׂפָּו:			
	both ye and your king	ye shall be consumed			
	H4428	H5595			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:20 (Parallel theme): If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

Isaiah 3:11 (Evil): Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Deuteronomy 28:36 (Kingdom): The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

Hosea 10:3 (Kingdom): For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?

