

1 Samuel 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

Analysis

And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

Israel's unanimous testimony - 'Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us' - provides complete vindication of Samuel's ministry. Their affirmation extends even to rejecting any claim that Samuel took anything 'of any man's hand,' eliminating even the appearance of impropriety. This public exoneration serves multiple purposes: it validates prophetic ministry, establishes standards for the monarchy, and positions Samuel to speak with unquestioned moral authority in the rebuke to follow.

Historical Context

Public vindication of departing leaders was important in ancient societies where reputation affected family honor for generations. Samuel's unblemished record contrasted sharply with common experiences of judicial corruption across the ancient Near East.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What would those who have been under your leadership say about your integrity?
2. How does personal integrity enhance one's ability to speak prophetic truth?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	לֹא	עָשִׂיתָ	נוֹ	וְלֹא	רָצוּתָ	נוֹ	וְלֹא
And they said	H3808	Thou hast not defrauded	H3808	us nor oppressed	H3808		
H559		H6231		H7533			
לָקַחְתָּ	מִיַּד	אֵשׁ	מֵאִוְמָה:				
us neither hast thou taken	hand	of any man's	ought				
H3947	H3027	H376	H3972				

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