

1 Samuel 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

Analysis

Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

Samuel summons Israel to 'stand still' (yatsab - to station oneself, take a firm position) for a legal proceeding. He will 'reason' (shaphat - the same root as 'judge') with them concerning 'all the righteous acts of the LORD.' The phrase tsidqoth Yahweh refers to God's covenant faithfulness demonstrated through saving acts. Samuel functions as both prosecutor and witness, presenting evidence of divine faithfulness against which Israel's request for a king appears as covenant betrayal.

Historical Context

The covenant lawsuit (Hebrew rib) form was a prophetic genre where God indicted Israel for covenant violations. Micah 6:1-8 and Isaiah 1:2-20 provide later examples. Samuel pioneered this prophetic form that would characterize Israel's writing prophets.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does reviewing God's faithful acts in history inform our present decisions?
2. What 'righteous acts of the LORD' in your life should prevent you from seeking illegitimate securities?

Interlinear Text

לפָנֵי אַתָּךְ מִאֲשֶׁר הָיָה בְּעֵת הַזֶּה
Now therefore stand still that I may reason with you before
H6258 H3320 H8199 H854 H6440

אֲשֶׁר יְהִי הַצְדָּקָה וְכָל אֲתָּךְ יְהִי תְּהִלָּתְךָ
of the LORD H853 H3605 of all the righteous acts H6666 H3068 H834
H3068

עֲשֵׂה מִאֲתָּךְ מִאֲבֹתֶיךָ מִן הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וְעַד
which he did H6213 H854 H854 to you and to your fathers H1

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:18 (References Lord): Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org