

1 Samuel 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

Analysis

And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

Having addressed sons, Samuel now turns to daughters, extending the warning to encompass entire families. The three terms—"raqqachot" (perfumers/confectionaries), "tabbachot" (cooks), and "ophot" (bakers)—describe skilled domestic positions in the royal household. While these roles might seem honorable compared to military conscription, the fundamental issue remains: daughters will serve the king's household rather than their own families. In ancient Israel, daughters remained under paternal authority until marriage, at which point they came under their husband's care within their own household. Royal service disrupted this family structure, removing young women from the marriage pool and the domestic economy of their clans. The brevity of this verse—compared to the extensive description of sons' conscription—may reflect either the limited roles available to women in palace service or the text's assumption that losing daughters was self-evidently grievous. Either way, monarchy will reach into every Israelite home.

Historical Context

Royal households throughout the ancient Near East employed large domestic staffs. Egyptian tomb paintings and Mesopotamian administrative texts document the various specialized roles within palace economies. The perfumer role was

particularly significant given the importance of aromatic substances in religious rituals and elite culture.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this passage speak to the importance of family integrity against state encroachment?
2. In what ways might modern believers be tempted to sacrifice family relationships for institutional advancement?

Interlinear Text

וְלִטְבֹּחַ וְתַּחֲנֹמֶן לְכַקְּחַ וְתַּחֲנֹמֶן בְּתוּתִיכְךָ מִאַת
H853 your daughters And he will take to be confectionaries and to be cooks
H1323 H3947 H7548 H2879

וְלִאָפּוֹת:
and to be bakers
H644

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