

1 Samuel 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

Analysis

And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

This prophetic warning employs the same vocabulary as Israel's Egyptian bondage. The verb "za'aq" (cry out) appears in Exodus 2:23 when Israel groaned under Pharaoh's oppression and their cry came up to God. But here comes the chilling difference: "the LORD will not hear you" (Hebrew "lo ya'aneh"). God will not intervene because they have deliberately chosen this condition. The phrase "which ye shall have chosen you" emphasizes human responsibility—twice using forms of "bachar" (to choose) to underscore that this outcome was self-selected. God's non-response does not reflect inability or indifference but judicial consequence. Having rejected divine rule for human kingship, they cannot then appeal to divine deliverance from human tyranny. This represents not abandonment but the painful respect God shows for human choices and their consequences. Yet even this severe warning reveals grace: God tells them beforehand so they cannot claim ignorance.

Historical Context

The cry for deliverance (za'aq/tsa'aq) was technical covenant vocabulary for appealing to a suzerain for help. God's non-response represents a temporary suspension of covenant intervention, though the broader narrative shows His continued involvement in Israel's history even through the monarchy.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the principle that God sometimes allows us to experience the full consequences of our choices?
2. What comfort and warning do you find in knowing that God takes human decisions seriously?

Interlinear Text

וְצִעֲקֶתֶם	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	מֵלִפְנֵי	מֶלֶכְךָ	אֱשֶׁר
And ye shall cry out	in that day	H1931	because	of your king	H834
H2199	H3117		H6440	H4428	
בְּחִרְתָּם	לָכֵן	וְלֹא	יִשְׁמַע	יְהוָה	
which ye shall have chosen	H0	H3808	will not hear	you and the LORD	
H977			H6030	H3068	
אֶתְּךָ	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא:			
H853	in that day	H1931			
	H3117				

Additional Cross-References

Micah 3:4 (References Lord): Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Isaiah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 8:21 (Kingdom): And they shall pass through it, hardly bestead and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward.

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