

Amos 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks.

Analysis

God pronounces judgment on the wealthy women: "The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks." The oath "by his holiness" invokes God's own nature as guarantee—He cannot lie or fail. The image of hooks and fishhooks describes brutal captivity. Assyrians famously led captives with hooks through lips or noses (depicted in reliefs). These pampered women who lived for luxury would be dragged away like fish on hooks—total reversal of fortune. Verse 3 adds: "And ye shall go out at the breaches, every cow at that which is before her; and ye shall cast them into the palace." They'll flee through broken walls (invasion), each going straight ahead (panic, not organized), and be "cast into the palace" (some translations: Harmon—possibly a place name or "the mountain"—unclear, but clearly judgment and exile).

Historical Context

When Assyria conquered Samaria (722 BC), they practiced brutal mass deportation. Israelite elites, including these wealthy women, would have experienced exactly what Amos predicted—captivity, stripping of luxury, forced march to exile. The prophecy's detailed fulfillment demonstrates divine inspiration and the certainty that God keeps His word, both in blessing and judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that wealth and comfort can vanish instantly in divine judgment affect priorities?
2. What does it mean that God's holiness guarantees judgment on oppression and injustice?

Interlinear Text

נָשַׁבַּע	אֶדְןִי	יְהוָה	בָּקָרְשׁוּ	הַיּוֹם	יְמִים
hath sworn	The Lord	GOD	by his holiness	H3588	H2009
H7650	H136	H3069	H6944		that lo the days
H3117					
בָּאֵם	עַלְיכֶם	וַיִּנְשַׁא	אַתֶּכֶם	בְּצֶבֶב	וְתַּחֲזִקְתֶּם
shall come	H5921	upon you that he will take you away	H5375	H853	with hooks
H935				H6793	
וְתַּחֲזִקְתֶּם	בְּסִיר וְתַּאֲסְרִיתָכָּן	דַּגָּה:	with fishhooks		
and your posterity	H5518		H1729		
H319					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 16:16 (References Lord): Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they

shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

Psalms 89:35 (Holy): Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

Isaiah 37:29 (Parallel theme): Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

Amos 6:8 (References God): The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.

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