

Amos 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself (נִשְׁבַּע אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה בְּנַפְשׁוֹ, nishba Adonai YHWH b'nafsho, literally 'sworn by His soul/life')—when God swears by Himself, the oath is irrevocable (Hebrews 6:13-18). **I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces** (תִּעַב אֲנֹכִי אֶת־גִּאוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־מִנְתָּיו שְׂנֵאתִי, toev anochi et-ge'on Ya'akov v'armenotav saneti)—the Hebrew intensifies with both 'abhor' (תִּעַב, ta'av) and 'hate' (שָׂנֵאת, sane). גִּאוֹן (ge'on, 'pride, excellency') here means arrogant self-sufficiency, not legitimate glory. **Therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein**—total destruction.

This shocking statement—God abhors and hates His covenant people—demonstrates how sin transforms blessing into curse. Their 'excellency' (covenant status, prosperity) became pride; their palaces (symbols of success) became monuments to oppression. When people pervert God's gifts into idols, He turns against even His own people (Isaiah 1:14).

Historical Context

Samaria's fall in 722 BC fulfilled this oath. The city God once blessed became the object of His judgment. This demonstrates covenant faithfulness: God keeps His word for blessing or curse, depending on Israel's obedience (Deuteronomy 28).

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 can God's covenant people become objects of His abhorrence through persistent sin and pride?
2. What 'excellency' or 'palaces'—church buildings, programs, reputations—might God hate if they're built on compromise?
3. Why is God's oath by Himself both terrifying (guaranteeing judgment) and comforting (guaranteeing salvation through Christ)?

Interlinear Text

נִשְׁבַּע	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	בְּנַפְשׁוֹ	נֹאֵם	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	צָבָא
hath sworn	The Lord	GOD	by himself	saith	the LORD	the God	of hosts
H7650	H136	H3069	H5315	H5002	H3068	H430	H6635
מְתֵאֱבֹר	אֲנֹכִי	אֶת	גָּאֹן	יַעֲקֹב	בָּתֵּי	אֲנִי	שֹׂנֵא
I abhor			the excellency	of Jacob	his palaces	and hate	
H8374	H595	H853	H1347	H3290	H759	H8130	
וְהִסְגֵּרְתִּי	עִיר	וְכָל־					
therefore will I deliver up	the city	with all that is therein					
H5462	H5892	H4393					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 51:14 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillers; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

Amos 4:2 (References God): 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.

Psalms 47:4 (Parallel theme): He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

Amos 8:7 (References Lord): The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

Jeremiah 22:5 (References Lord): But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.

Amos 3:11 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary there shall be even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled.

Psalms 106:40 (References Lord): Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.