

# 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** (נִשְׁבָע אֶלְךָ יְהוָה בְּנֶפֶשׁךָ) 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** (תַּעֲבֶה אֲנַכִּי אֶת־גְּזָעָן יְעַלְּבֵב וְאֶרְמָנוֹתֵי שְׁנָאָתִי) toev anochi et-ge'on Ya'akov v'armenotav saneti)—the Hebrew intensifies with both 'abhor' (תַּעֲבֶה, ta'av) and 'hate' (שְׁנָא, sane). גְּזָעָן (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

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**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

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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

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צְבָא	וְתִ	אֱלֹהִ	י	יְהֹוָה	וְ	אֱלֹהִ	י	צְבָא
hath sworn	The Lord	GOD	by himself	saith	the LORD	the God	of hosts	
H7650	H136	H3069	H5315	H5002	H3068	H430	H6635	
מַתָּא בָּ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ	בְּגָא וְ
שָׁנִ	אָתִי	אֶרְחָמָנְתִּי	יְ	יְעַקָּן בְּ				
I abhor	H595	H853	the excellency	of Jacob	his palaces	and hate		
H8374			H1347	H3290	H759	H8130		
וְמַלְאָה:	עַד יְרֵ							
therefore will I deliver up	the city	with all that is therein						
H5462	H5892	H4393						

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.