

Amos 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, if there remain ten men in one house, that they shall die.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, if there remain ten men in one house, that they shall die—This describes plague or siege warfare's aftermath. Even survivors in a single household will perish. The number 'ten' may reference a עֲשָׂרָה (asarah, 'ten,' a traditional quorum for Jewish prayer), suggesting even complete families or communities won't escape. This verse continues the relentless depiction of total judgment—no remnant preserved, no survivors exempted.

The cumulative weight of judgment prophecies in Amos 6 creates an overwhelming sense of inevitability. God isn't threatening; He's announcing settled reality. Like Sodom (Genesis 19), when judgment arrives, escape proves nearly impossible. This should drive people to urgent repentance while opportunity remains.

Historical Context

The Assyrian siege of Samaria lasted three years (2 Kings 17:5). Siege warfare involved starvation, disease, and finally slaughter when walls were breached. Archaeological evidence from Lachish and other sites confirms the devastating completeness of Assyrian conquest—fulfilling this prophecy's grim details.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

