

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 עשרה (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

Study Questions

1. How should the certainty and severity of judgment drive urgent evangelism and discipleship?
2. What does it mean that even 'ten men' (a community) cannot save each other through collective action apart from God?
3. How do modern people dismiss warnings of judgment as 'scare tactics' rather than loving warnings?

Interlinear Text

אָמֵן וְיִהְיֶה כֵּן

H1961

H518

And it shall come to pass if there remain

H3498

אַתָּשׁ יְמִינָה שְׁנָה הַ

H376

H6235

בְּבַבְתָּא אֶחָד בְּבַבְתָּא

house

H1004

in one

H259

יְמִתָּה:

that they shall die

H4191

Additional Cross-References

Amos 5:3 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.