

Amos 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

Analysis

God promises to transform celebrations into calamity: 'I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation.' The Hebrew intensifies the reversal: 'your feasts' (hageykem) become 'mourning' (le-evel), 'your songs' (shirekh em) become 'lamentation' (le-qinah). The imagery becomes visceral: 'sackcloth on all loins' (saq al-kol-motnayim) and 'baldness on every head' (qorhah al-kol-rosh)—ancient mourning practices indicating deepest grief. The comparison 'like mourning for an only son' evokes the most devastating personal loss imaginable (Jeremiah 6:26, Zechariah 12:10). The final phrase 'the end thereof shall be as a bitter day' (aharitah ke-yom mar) promises no relief, only sustained anguish. This anticipates the ultimate fulfillment in those who reject the true only Son.

Historical Context

Amos prophesied during prosperous reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC), when Israel enjoyed territorial expansion and economic boom. Religious festivals were elaborate and frequent, but divorced from covenant faithfulness. Within 30 years, Assyria devastated the nation—parties became funerals, prosperity turned to catastrophe. The 'only son' reference especially resonated in ancient culture where a son's death meant end of family line and security. The prophecy's ultimate

horizon points to the Day of the LORD (5:18-20), when those who casually expect God's blessing will face His wrath. Revelation 6:15-17 depicts final judgment with similar terror.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Do I mistake temporal prosperity and religious activity for God's approval while ignoring sin?
2. How would my life change if I truly believed judgment day is both certain and imminent?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁירֵיכֶם	וּבְפִכְתָּת	בְּלֵגִים	כִּי	בְּלֵגִים	וְשִׁירֵיכֶם	וּבְפִכְתָּת	וְשִׁירֵיכֶם
And I will turn	your feasts	into mourning	H3605	and all your songs	H7892		
H2015	H2282	H60					
וְעַל	שְׁלֵךְ	מִתְנַבֵּן	כָּל	עַל	וּבְעַלְיוֹת	לְקַיֵּם	וְעַל
upon all loins	sackcloth	H5921	H3605	H4975	H5921	and I will bring up	H8242
H7015	H5927						
וְעַל	רְאשָׁת	קְרַבְתָּה	כָּל	וְשִׁמְתַת	יְהִי	לְקַיֵּם	וְעַל
upon every head	and baldness	and I will make	H60	into mourning	H3173	the	H5921
H3605	H7218	H7144	H7760				
וְעַד	כִּי	בְּלֵגִים	וְשִׁמְתַת	יְהִי	לְקַיֵּם	וְעַל	וְעַל
son and the end	day	thereof as a bitter	H4751				
H319	H3117						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:26 (Parallel theme): O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Job 20:23 (Parallel theme): When he is about to fill his belly, God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.

Jeremiah 48:37 (Parallel theme): For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth.

Ezekiel 7:18 (Parallel theme): They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.

Hosea 2:11 (Parallel theme): I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.