

Hosea 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

Analysis

God's command 'Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel' names Hosea's first son prophetically. Jezreel (meaning 'God scatters' or 'God sows') references the valley where Jehu executed Ahab's house (2 Kings 9-10), initially fulfilling God's judgment on Baal worship. Yet Jehu himself continued idolatry (2 Kings 10:29-31), making his dynasty guilty. The name prophesies both judgment (scattering in exile) and restoration (sowing for harvest, Hosea 1:11, 2:22-23). God's sovereignty appears in controlling history: He used Jehu to judge Ahab, then judges Jehu's house for continued sin. This demonstrates that even obedience to one divine command doesn't license disobedience elsewhere. Partial obedience is ultimately disobedience.

Historical Context

Jehu's violent purge of Ahab's dynasty (2 Kings 9-10) occurred circa 841 BC at Jezreel. Though commissioned by God to destroy Baal worship, Jehu's motives were mixed and his reforms incomplete. By Hosea's time, Jehu's dynasty (which lasted five generations—God's promised reward, 2 Kings 10:30) was ending. Jeroboam II, Jehu's great-great-grandson, was the last stable ruler. His son Zechariah ruled only six months before assassination (752 BC), fulfilling this

prophecy. The northern kingdom itself ended 30 years later (722 BC). Jezreel valley, fertile and strategic, witnessed both Israel's greatest victories and ultimate defeat by Assyria.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment on Jehu's house, despite his initial obedience, warn against presuming on God's grace while persisting in sin?
2. What does the dual meaning of 'Jezreel' (scattering and sowing) reveal about God's judgment containing seeds of redemption?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יִזְרְעָאֵל	שְׁמוֹ הַ	קָרָא	אֵלָיו	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר
Jezreel	his name	unto him	Call	And the LORD	said
H3157	H8034	H7121	H413	H3068	H559
עַל יִזְרְעָאֵל	דָּמִי	אֶת	וּפִי קִדְּמָה	מָעַט	עוֹד
Jezreel	the blood		while and I will avenge	for yet a little	
H3157	H1818	H853	H6485	H4592	H5750
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	בֵּית	מַמְלָכָה	וְהָ שָׁבַת	יְהוּ	בֵּית
of Israel	of the house	the kingdom	and will cause to cease	of Jehu	of the house
H3478	H1004	H4468	H7673	H3058	H1004