

# Hosea 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

## Analysis

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The prophecy 'And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel' predicts military defeat in Israel's heartland. The 'bow' symbolizes military power (Psalm 46:9, Jeremiah 49:35). Jezreel valley, site of Israel's past victories (Judges 7, Gideon's defeat of Midian; 1 Samuel 29, Saul's final battle), would witness their ultimate humiliation. God Himself becomes Israel's enemy, stripping away false securities. This fulfills Deuteronomy's covenant curses (28:25): 'The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies.' The irony is profound: the nation trusting in military alliances (Egypt, Assyria) rather than YHWH loses all military capacity. Spiritual unfaithfulness produces practical powerlessness. Only Christ overcomes our enemies—sin, death, Satan—not through military might but through self-sacrificing love (Colossians 2:14-15).

## Historical Context

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Jezreel valley's strategic importance made it a perpetual battlefield. Israel's bow was indeed broken there: Assyrian forces under Tiglath-Pileser III (734-732 BC) conquered the northern territories, and Shalmaneser V besieged Samaria (725-722 BC). Archaeological evidence shows widespread destruction from Assyrian campaigns. Israel's military collapse fulfilled Hosea's prophecy precisely. The nation that relied on chariots and horses (Hosea 14:3) rather than God experienced the humiliation of total defeat. This historical pattern recurs: nations

trusting military power apart from righteousness inevitably fall (Psalm 20:7, 33:16-17).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What false securities (political, financial, relational) do I trust instead of God, and how might God 'break' them to restore dependence on Him?
2. How does Israel's military defeat in their strongest region warn against presuming on past blessings while forsaking covenant faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֹאמֶר	בַּיּוֹם	בְּהַיּוֹם	וְיִשְׁבְּרָא	אֶת
H1961	<b>And it shall come to pass at that day</b>	H3117	H1931	<b>that I will break</b>
				H7665
בָּעֵמֶק	יִשְׁבָּא	לְקַשְׁתָּה	יְזְרָעָאלָה	
<b>the bow</b>	<b>of Israel</b>	<b>in the valley</b>	<b>of Jezreel</b>	
H7198	H3478	H6010	H3157	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 17:16** (Parallel theme): And the children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us: and all the Canaanites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both they who are of Beth-shean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel.

**Judges 6:33** (Parallel theme): Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

