

Hosea 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.

Analysis

Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.' Israel described as 'empty vine' (boqeq) - hollow, degenerate, bearing fruit for self rather than God. Prosperity ('multitude of fruit,' 'goodness of land') produced idolatry ('increased altars,' 'goodly images') instead of gratitude. Jesus taught similar principle: seed among thorns gets choked by riches (Matthew 13:22). Only vine connected to Christ (John 15:1-5) bears fruit honoring God. Self-serving religion perverts prosperity into idolatry.

Historical Context

Jeroboam II's prosperous reign brought economic boom and multiplication of idolatrous shrines. Rather than gratitude toward YHWH producing covenant faithfulness, prosperity funded more altars and images. Archaeological evidence confirms increased cult sites during prosperity periods. This demonstrates dangerous tendency: wealth producing self-sufficiency and idolatry rather than dependence on God. Deuteronomy 8:11-14 warned against this: prosperity tempts forgetting God. Only continual gratitude and recognition of divine provision prevents wealth from producing idolatry.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do I ensure prosperity produces gratitude and generosity rather than self-serving accumulation and spiritual complacency?
2. What does 'empty vine bringing forth fruit to himself' teach about religion focused on self-benefit rather than God's glory?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יִשְׁׁוֹן לְפָרִי וְיִשְׁׁרָאֵל בְּזַקָּק גַּפְן
vine is an empty Israel fruit he bringeth forth H0
H1612 H1238 H3478 H6529 H7737

לְמִזְבֵּחַ וְתַּהֲרֵב כִּרְבָּן לְפָרִי וְהַרְבָּה
unto himself according to the multitude fruit he hath increased the altars
H7230 H6529 H7235 H4196

מְאַבּוֹתִים הַיִת יְבוּ לְאָרֶץ וְכַט וְבַט
according to the goodness of his land images
H2896 H776 H3190 H4676

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 8:11 (Creation): Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin.

Hosea 12:11 (Sacrifice): Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

Jeremiah 2:28 (Creation): But where are thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for according to the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah.

Leviticus 26:1 (Parallel theme): Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Philippians 2:21 (Parallel theme): For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

1 Kings 14:23 (Parallel theme): For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

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