

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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לֵּוֹ	וְשֹׂהֶה	לְפָרִי וְיִשְׂרָאֵל	בֹּזֵקֶק	גֶּפֶן
	he bringeth forth	fruit	is an empty	vine
	H7737	H6529	H1238	H1612
לְמִזְבְּחֹת	הַרְבֵּה	לְפָרִי וְ	כָּרָב	
the altars	he hath increased	fruit	unto himself according to the multitude	
H4196	H7235	H6529	H7230	
מִצֵּבֹת:	הֵיטִיבוּ	לְאַרְצוֹ	כֶּט וֹב	
images		of his land	according to the goodness	
H4676		H776	H2896	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.