

Hosea 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Beth-arbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children.

Analysis

Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods. Israel compared to heifer loving easy work - treading grain (could eat while working, Deuteronomy 25:4). But God will put yoke on fair neck, making her do hard labor (plowing, breaking clods). This describes judgment transforming comfort to harsh discipline. The easy path of prosperity becomes difficult path of exile. Judah and Jacob (broader Israel) also receive hard labor. Only Christ's yoke is easy and burden light (Matthew 11:30), providing rest instead of oppression.

Historical Context

Jeroboam II's reign provided prosperity - Israel enjoyed easy times like heifer treading grain. But coming judgment (Assyrian exile) would be harsh labor - yoke of oppression. Judah also faced similar fate (Babylonian exile). The metaphor perfectly captures transition from prosperity to captivity. Modern application: prosperity allowing comfortable religion often precedes discipline demanding hard lessons. God uses hardship redemptively, breaking stubborn hearts and teaching dependence. Only Christ provides true rest - not comfortable circumstances but peace amid trials (John 16:33).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God transforming easy prosperity (treading corn) to hard discipline (plowing) serve redemptive purposes?
2. In what ways does comfortable religion need God's yoke to produce genuine transformation?

Interlinear Text

אִם יָקֹם	שָׁאוֹן	בְּעַמְּךָ	וְכָל	מִבְצָרֶיךָ	
arise	Therefore shall a tumult	among thy people	H3605	and all thy fortresses	
H6965	H7588	H5971		H4013	
יִשָּׁד	כָּשָׁד	שָׁלֹמָן	בֵּית	בֵּית	מִלְחָמָה
shall be spoiled	spoiled	as Shalman	H0	Betharbel	in the day of battle
H7703	H7701	H8020		H1009	H3117 H4421
אִם	עַל	בְּנֵי יִם	רָטְשָׁה:		
the mother	H5921	upon her children	was dashed in pieces		
H517		H1121	H7376		

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 13:16 (Parallel theme): Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

