

Hosea 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So shall Beth-el do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

Analysis

Seeking God in dawn: 'I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.' Repeats 5:15, emphasizing God's withdrawal until they acknowledge guilt (אָשָׁם, *asham*) and seek (בִּקֵּשׁ, *biqesh*) His face. The phrase בָּצַר לָהֶם יִשְׁחַרְחֹנִי (batssar lahem yeshacharuneni, in distress they will seek Me early/diligently) suggests dawn-seeking—earnest, early-morning pursuit. This demonstrates that God uses affliction redemptively: suffering driving people to seek Him. Divine withdrawal intends eventual return. Christ ends separation, providing permanent access (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Historical Context

The promise that affliction produces seeking proved true historically: exile eventually produced remnant seeking YHWH (Daniel 9, Ezra 9, Nehemiah 9). Post-exilic Judaism showed renewed Torah commitment. Yet full seeking awaited Messiah's coming—Jesus being sought by both Jews and Gentiles. The pattern (apostasy, affliction, seeking, restoration) appears throughout Judges and prophets. Archaeological evidence shows post-exilic Jewish communities maintaining stronger covenant identity than pre-exilic period. This demonstrates that God's disciplinary judgments serve redemptive purposes—not destroying but refining, not abandoning but purifying.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's withdrawal 'till they acknowledge offence' demonstrate that repentance is prerequisite for restoration?
2. What does 'in affliction they will seek Me early' teach about suffering's role in driving people to God?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	עַשׂ ה	לְכֶם	בֵּית	אֵל	מִפְּנֵי י	רַעֲתֶךָ מ
So	do	H0	H0	shall Bethel	unto you because	of your great
H3602	H6213			H1008	H6440	H7451
רַעֲתֶךָ מ	בֹּשֶׁת חַר	נִדְּחָה	נִדְּחָה	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	
of your great	in a morning	be cut off	be cut off	shall the king	of Israel	
H7451	H7837	H1820	H1820	H4428	H3478	

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 10:5 (Parallel theme): The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Beth-aven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it.

Hosea 10:7 (Kingdom): As for Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.