

Hosea 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

Analysis

Tribute to Assyria: 'It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.' The calves carried to Assyria as מִנְחָה (minchah, gift/tribute) to king Jareb (מֶלֶךְ יָרֵב, likely 'great king'). Result: Ephraim receives בֹּשֶׁת (boshet, shame); Israel ashamed of אֲצִטּוֹ (atsato, his counsel). This demonstrates that trusting created things rather than Creator produces shame. What they worshiped becomes tribute to enemies. Only Christ brings honor, not shame (Romans 10:11, 1 Peter 2:6).

Historical Context

Assyrian policy included plundering defeated nations' religious objects—both demonstrating gods' powerlessness and enriching Assyrian temples. Carrying Israel's calves to Assyria fulfilled this pattern. The 'shame' involves public humiliation: their gods proven powerless, their strategies failed, their counsels (political and religious) exposed as foolish. 'King Jareb' (8:9, 10:6) likely means 'great king,' Assyrian imperial title. Archaeological evidence confirms Assyrian practice of displaying conquered peoples' cult objects. This demonstrated that idols cannot save worshipers—instead becoming evidence of defeat and sources of shame.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does seeing their idols carried off as tribute to enemies expose idolatry's foolishness?
2. What does being 'ashamed of own counsel' teach about the eventual exposure of all wisdom apart from God?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	אוֹתוֹ	לְאַשׁ וּר	יֻבַּל	מִנְחָה	לְמֶלֶךְ	יָרֵב
H1571	H853	unto Assyria	It shall be also carried	for a present	to king	Jareb
		H804	H2986	H4503	H4428	H3377
בְּשֹׁנָה	אֶפְרַיִם	יִקַּח	וַיִּבֹּשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִעֲצָתוֹ:	
shame	Ephraim	shall receive	shall be ashamed	and Israel	of his own counsel	
H1317	H669	H3947	H954	H3478	H6098	

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 5:13 (Kingdom): When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

Isaiah 30:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.

Jeremiah 7:24 (Parallel theme): But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Daniel 11:8 (Kingdom): And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

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