

Hosea 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

Analysis

Controversy with Judah: 'The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.' YHWH has רִיב (riv, lawsuit/controversy) with Judah; will פָּקַד (paqad, visit/punish) Jacob according to ways and doings. This demonstrates God's impartiality: both Israel and Judah face judgment for covenant breach. Neither tribal identity nor Davidic heritage exempts from accountability. Perfect justice recompenses all according to deeds (Romans 2:6-11). Only Christ's righteousness imputed saves (Philippians 3:9).

Historical Context

While Hosea primarily addresses northern Israel (Ephraim), he includes warnings to Judah (1:7, 4:15, 5:5,10,12-14, 6:4,11). Both kingdoms violated covenant; both faced judgment—Israel immediately (722 BC), Judah later (586 BC). The reference to 'Jacob' (covenant name including all twelve tribes) emphasizes collective guilt. Judah couldn't presume on Davidic covenant while violating Sinai covenant. Archaeological evidence shows Judah's worship also compromised despite Jerusalem temple. This demonstrates that privilege increases accountability—greater revelation demands greater obedience (Luke 12:48).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God having 'controversy with Judah' despite focusing on Israel demonstrate divine impartiality in judgment?
2. What does recompensing 'according to his ways and doings' teach about perfect divine justice?

Interlinear Text

וְגַם יֵשׁ hath also a controversy H7379	לַיהוָה הָאֵל The LORD H3068	עִם H5973	יְהוּדָה הָאֵל with Judah H3063	וְלִפְקֹדָתוֹ and will punish H6485	עַל H5921
יַעֲקֹב Jacob H3290	כְּדַרְכֵּי יוֹ according to his ways H1870	כְּמַעֲשָׁיו according to his doings H4611	יֵשׁ יְהוָה will he recompense H7725	לּוֹ H0	

Additional Cross-References

Micah 6:2 (References Lord): Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

Isaiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Hosea 4:1 (References Lord): Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

