

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 ריב (riv, lawsuit/controversy) with Judah; will פקע (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

יב רִי	הִיהֵת	עִם	יְהוָה	דָּלְקָה	עַל
hath also a controversy	The LORD	H5973	with Judah	and will punish	H5921
H7379	H3068		H3063	H6485	
יעקב	קְדָרֶךְ	י	קְמַעַלְל	י	יְשִׁיב
Jacob	according to his ways		according to his doings	will he recompense	H0
H3290	H1870		H4611	H7725	

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.

