

Hosea 13:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

Analysis

I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes? God sarcastically offers to be their king, then questions: where are other saviors (kings, judges, princes) you requested? This recalls 1 Samuel 8:5-7 when Israel demanded human king, rejecting God as King. Their chosen leaders proved powerless. Divine rhetorical question exposes futility of human saviors. Only God saves; all substitutes fail. Jesus is true King (John 18:37), establishing kingdom that cannot be shaken. All political hopes apart from Christ ultimately disappoint.

Historical Context

Israel's monarchy beginning (Saul, 1 Samuel 8) reflected rejection of God's direct kingship. Northern kingdom's kings (from Jeroboam I forward) all failed - no lasting dynasty, constant violence, eventual destruction. Where are they now? All dead, powerless. Modern parallel: political ideologies, charismatic leaders, government programs all ultimately fail to save. Only Christ provides lasting kingdom and perfect justice. While civil government serves valid purpose (Romans 13:1-7), it cannot provide ultimate salvation or create perfect society. Only Christ's return establishes that.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What human kings, leaders, or systems do I trust as saviors, forgetting that only God saves?
2. How does the failure of Israel's chosen kings warn against political messianism - expecting government to solve spiritual problems?

Interlinear Text

שְׁלֹמֶךְ	בְּכָל	בָּבָבָרִים
וַיֹּשִׁיבָךְ	אַפְּנָא	אַמְּרָתְךָ
מִלְּגָדָל	אַפְּנָא	אַמְּרָתְךָ

I will be thy king where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities
H165 H4428 H645 H3467 H3605 H5892

and thy judges of whom thou saidst Give be thy king and princes
H8199 H834 H559 H5414 H0 H4428 H8269

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 8:4 (Kingdom): They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

Hosea 10:3 (Kingdom): For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?