

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

אֶהְיֶה	יְהוָה	אִם	וְאֵל	וְיִשְׁעֶךָ	בְּכָל	עַרְיָה
I will	be thy king	where	is any other that may save		thee in all thy cities	
H165	H4428	H645	H3467		H3605	H5892
וְשֹׁפְטֵי	אֲשֶׁר	אָמַרְתָּ	לִי	תֵּן	יְהוָה	וְשָׂרִים:
and thy judges	of whom thou saidst	Give		be thy king	and princes	
H8199	H834	H559	H0	H5414	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?