

Hosea 13:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.

Analysis

The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid. Iniquity bound up and sin hidden doesn't mean forgotten but stored for future accounting. The imagery suggests sealed records awaiting judgment day. Deuteronomy 32:34 similarly describes: Is not this laid up in store with me, sealed up among my treasures? No sin escapes accounting; all awaits judgment. Ecclesiastes 12:14 declares: God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing. Only Christ's atonement removes stored-up sin from believers' account (Isaiah 43:25, I will not remember your sins).

Historical Context

Ephraim's accumulated sins across generations awaited comprehensive accounting. Assyrian judgment demonstrated God's complete awareness and certain retribution. What seemed forgotten or hidden proved carefully recorded. Modern application: time doesn't erase guilt; it accumulates until judgment. Every secret sin remains in divine record unless removed through Christ's blood. The cross demonstrates both realities: God forgets nothing (comprehensive awareness driving thorough atonement) yet remembers believers' sins no more (Hebrews 8:12) through Christ's complete payment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does sin being bound up and hidden for future judgment drive urgent repentance and faith now?
2. What does Christ's removal of stored-up sin from believers' accounts teach about atonement's completeness?

Interlinear Text

צְרֻרָה | עַל אֶפְרַיִם אָגַף הַצְּרָרָה אָגַף הַצְּרָרָה
is bound up The iniquity of Ephraim is hid his sin
H6887 H5771 H669 H6845 H2403

Additional Cross-References

Job 14:17 (Sin): My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.

Romans 2:5 (Parallel theme): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

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