

Hosea 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

Analysis

Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found. Ephraim's confession: finished with idols. God responds: I have heard and observed you. God's self-description: green fir tree (evergreen, always fruitful). Declaration: from me is thy fruit. This teaches source of fruitfulness - not self-effort but divine life. Christ taught: apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5). Only connection to Him produces fruit.

Historical Context

Israel's history featured constant idolatry; this confession marks radical transformation. What have I to do with idols shows complete renunciation. God as green fir tree (evergreen, perpetually fruitful) contrasts with seasonal fruit trees - His provision never fails. That fruit comes from God corrects Israel's error of crediting Baal (2:5, 8). True restoration requires recognizing God as source of all blessing. Only new covenant regeneration produces such transformation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Have I genuinely renounced all idols, confessing What have I to do with them, or do some remain?
2. How does recognizing that from God alone is my fruit found transform my approach to spiritual growth?

Interlinear Text

אֶפְרַיִם	יְמָה	לִי	וְעוֹד	לְעֵצֶיבַיִם	אֲנִי
Ephraim	H4100	H0	H5750	shall say What have I to do any more with idols	H589
H669				H6091	
שָׁמַעְתִּי	וְאֶשׁוּבָה	נֹוֹ	אֲנִי	כֶּסֶד וְשֵׁן	רֵעֵנִי
I have heard	him and observed	H589	fir tree	him I am like a green	H4480
H6030	H7789		H1265	H7488	
פְּרִיִּי	נִמְצָא:				
From me is thy fruit	found				
H6529	H4672				

Additional Cross-References

Job 34:32 (Parallel theme): That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

Isaiah 55:13 (Parallel theme): Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 41:19 (Parallel theme): I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:

Luke 15:20 (Parallel theme): And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Isaiah 60:13 (Parallel theme): The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

Job 33:27 (Parallel theme): He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

Ephesians 5:9 (Parallel theme): (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

John 1:16 (Parallel theme): And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 (Parallel theme): For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;