

Hosea 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil,
and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for
Baal.

Analysis

The root problem: 'For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.' The tragic irony: Israel enjoyed YHWH's blessings (corn, wine, oil, silver, gold—comprehensive provision) but credited Baal, then used God's gifts to worship idols ('prepared for Baal' making images, temples, offerings). 'Did not know' (lo yada'ah) indicates not intellectual ignorance but willful refusal to acknowledge. Knowledge in Hebrew (yada) implies intimate relationship and recognition of source. Israel knew theologically that YHWH delivered them from Egypt, yet practically lived as though Baal provided prosperity. This is functional atheism—denying God's active providence. Romans 1:21 describes this: 'when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful.' All idolatry misappropriates God's gifts, using what He provides to serve false gods. True worship recognizes God as source and directs gifts back to Him in gratitude and obedience.

Historical Context

Israel's economic prosperity under Jeroboam II (mid-8th century BC) coincided with increased Baal worship. Material abundance didn't produce gratitude to YHWH but attribution to Baal and multiplication of idolatrous practices. Archaeological excavations at Samaria reveal luxury items (ivory inlays, fine pottery) alongside evidence of Baal worship (cult objects, altars). Silver and gold used for idol-making violated the second commandment and demonstrated

perverse ingratitude: taking the Provider's gifts to honor competitors. This pattern recurs: prosperity often produces spiritual complacency and idolatry (Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 'when you have eaten and are full...then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD'). Economic blessing tests faith—will we recognize God as source or credit ourselves/systems?

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do I ensure that I recognize God as the source of all provision rather than crediting my own effort, the economy, or other systems?
2. In what ways might I be using God's gifts to serve idols—taking blessings He provides to pursue other ultimate loves?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָא H1931	לֹא H3808	יָדָעָה H3045	כִּי H3588	אֲנֹכִי H595	נָתַתִּי H5414	לָהּ H0	הַדָּג H1715
		For she did not know			that I gave		her corn
וְשֵׁן H8492	וְהַצֵּהָר H3323	וְכֶסֶף H3701	הִרְבֵּי יִתִּי H7235	לָהּ H0	וְזָהָב H2091		
and wine	and oil	her silver	and multiplied		and gold		
וְעָשׂוּ H6213	לְבַעַל: H1168						
which they prepared	for Baal						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:3 (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Hosea 4:11 (Parallel theme): Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

Hosea 8:4 (Parallel theme): 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 13:2 (Parallel theme): And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.