

Hosea 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Analysis

The wind has bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.' The imagery shifts to wind binding Israel in its wings - carrying them away to exile, unable to escape. 'Ashamed because of sacrifices' means their idolatrous worship will prove worthless, bringing shame instead of blessing. This fulfills covenant curses: trusting false gods leads to humiliation. Jeremiah 2:26-27 similarly describes: 'as the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed.' When idols fail to save, worshipers experience devastating shame. Only Christ provides worship that never disappoints (Romans 10:11, 'whoever believes in him will not be put to shame').

Historical Context

Assyrian conquest swept Israel away like wind - deportation scattered them among nations, fulfilling the imagery. Their sacrifices to Baal, golden calves, and high places proved useless - these gods couldn't prevent destruction. Archaeological evidence shows destroyed altars and cult sites from Assyrian campaigns. The shame of Israel's defeat before nations demonstrated their gods' impotence. This historical pattern recurs: false worship always disappoints. Only the true God saves; all substitutes fail when tested.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What false 'sacrifices' (worship, time, resources devoted to wrong things) will ultimately bring shame instead of blessing?
2. How does recognition that all false worship ends in shame drive me to exclusive devotion to Christ?

Interlinear Text

צָרָה	רוּחַ	אֵת הַ	בְּכַנְף יְהוָה	וַיִּבֹּשׁוּ
hath bound her up	The wind	H853	in her wings	and they shall be ashamed
H6887	H7307		H3671	H954

מִזְבְּחוֹתָם:
because of their sacrifices
H2077

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:29 (Parallel theme): For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen.

Jeremiah 51:1 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind;

Hosea 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

