

Hosea 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the revolters are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all.

Analysis

Divine warning to leaders: 'And the revolters are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all.' The Hebrew is challenging: שְׁחַתָּה שְׁטִים הָעִמָּקָה (shachatah setim he'emuqah)—literally 'the revolters have made deep slaughter' or 'gone deep in corruption.' The imagery suggests deliberate, calculated rebellion—not casual sin but intentional evil. Despite God's continuous rebuke (רָזִים, musar—discipline/correction), they persist. This demonstrates hardness of heart: correction producing defiance rather than repentance. Isaiah 1:5 asks similarly: 'Why should ye be stricken any more?' Only Christ's regenerating work breaks such hardness, giving new hearts responsive to divine rebuke (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Historical Context

The 'revolters' (רָזִים, setim) likely refers to leaders—priests, prophets, rulers—who led Israel into apostasy. The 'slaughter' may reference literal violence (political assassinations marking this period) or metaphorical slaughter of souls through false teaching. Hosea's ministry spanned decades of increasing chaos: after Jeroboam II's death (753 BC), six kings ruled in 30 years, four assassinated. This political violence reflected spiritual violence—leaders destroying the nation through rebellion. God's continuous rebuke through prophets (Hosea, Amos, Micah) went unheeded, hardening hearts further. This pattern appears throughout history: correction refused becomes judgment ensured.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does persistent resistance to divine correction eventually produce hardened hearts incapable of repentance?
2. What distinguishes godly correction that produces growth from rebuke that hardens hearts?

Interlinear Text

וְשַׁחַטְתִּי הָעָם יְהוָה
to make slaughter And the revolters are profound H589
H7819 H7846 H6009

מִזְבֵּחַ רְכָלָם:
though I have been a rebuker H3605
H4148

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 9:15 (Parallel theme): All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolters.

Isaiah 29:15 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

Hosea 6:9 (Parallel theme): And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

