

Hosea 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.

Analysis

I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.' God sees 'horrible thing' (sha'arurah) - something shocking, appalling. 'In house of Israel' means in God's own household - His covenant people committing these atrocities. 'Whoredom of Ephraim' continues spiritual adultery theme. 'Israel is defiled' (nitma) means ceremonially and morally polluted, unfit for God's presence. That God 'sees' means nothing escapes divine notice - secret sins remain visible to omniscient Judge. Hebrews 4:13 declares: 'Nothing is hidden from his sight.' This both warns (accountability) and drives us to Christ (whose blood cleanses all defilement, 1 John 1:7).

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence confirms widespread Baal worship, cult prostitution, and child sacrifice in northern Israel. These 'horrible things' occurred in God's covenant people - shocking betrayal. Prophets repeatedly denounced these practices (Jeremiah 7:30-31, 19:5, Ezekiel 16, 23). That horror occurred 'in house of Israel' magnifies the tragedy - not pagans but God's people committed these atrocities. Modern parallel: abuse and corruption within churches shock because they occur in God's house. Such sin demands radical reformation and repentance, returning to scriptural purity.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'horrible things' might exist in modern church - either my own congregation or broader Christianity - requiring prophetic denunciation?
2. How does recognition that nothing is hidden from God's sight drive both holiness and desperate dependence on Christ's cleansing?

Interlinear Text

בְּבֵית	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	כֹּא יֵתִי	שֶׁעֲרִירִי ה	שׁ ם
in the house	Israel	I have seen	an horrible thing	H8033
H1004	H3478	H7200	H8186	
זֶה וְזֶה	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	נִטְמָ א	לְאֶפְרַיִם:	
there is the whoredom	of Ephraim	is defiled	Israel	
H2184	H669	H2930	H3478	

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 5:3 (References Israel): I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.

Jeremiah 23:14 (Parallel theme): I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.