

Hosea 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.

Analysis

Pride preventing return: 'And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.' Repeating 5:5, the indictment emphasizes pride (גָּאוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל, ge'on Yisrael) testifying to face (עַנָּה בְּפָנָיו), anah befanav)—self-accusatory witness. Despite everything ('for all this,' בְּכָל-זֶאת, bekhol-zot), they neither return (שָׁב, shuv) nor seek (בְּקַשׁ, biqesh) YHWH. Pride prevents repentance—self-sufficiency refusing to admit need, recognize guilt, or seek help. Proverbs 16:18: pride precedes destruction. Only humility enables returning to God (James 4:6: 'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble'). Christ exemplifies perfect humility (Philippians 2:5-8), making repentance possible.

Historical Context

Despite mounting evidence—prophetic warnings, territorial losses, political chaos, economic decline—Israel persisted in proud self-deception. Pride manifested in false confidence (military strength, alliances, ritual religion) despite obvious failure. The repetition from 5:5 emphasizes persistence in pride despite intervening chapters detailing judgment. This demonstrates that pride is not merely personal vice but corporate delusion affecting entire nations/churches. When communities become proud, even disaster doesn't produce humility or repentance. Church history shows reformation often requiring catastrophic collapse before proud communities acknowledge need for change. Only divine grace breaks pride's grip.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does pride specifically prevent the humility necessary for genuine repentance and seeking God?
2. What corporate/communal pride prevents churches or Christian communities from acknowledging spiritual decline and seeking God?

Interlinear Text

testifieth	And the pride	of Israel	to his face	וְלֹא	בְּפָנָי	ישְׁכָא	לְ	גָאוֹן	וְעַתָּה	שׁ	בְּ	וְ	אֲלֹ	
H6030	H1347	H3478	H6440	H3808										H413
to the LORD	their God				בְּכָל	בְּקַשׁ	הָוֶה	וְלֹא	אָלֹהִים	מִ	יְהֹוָה	הָ	זָאת:	
H3068	H430	H3808	H1245	H3605										H2063

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 5:5 (References Israel): And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

Isaiah 9:13 (References Lord): For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.