

Hosea 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard.

Analysis

When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard.' God becomes hunter spreading net - Israel trying to escape (through alliances) will be caught. 'Bring them down as fowls' suggests shooting birds from sky - sudden, inescapable capture. 'Chastise as their congregation heard' references covenant curses (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28) publicly proclaimed. They were warned; judgment is not surprise but fulfillment of known consequences. This demonstrates covenant accountability: disobedience brings predictable results. Christ bore covenant curses for believers (Galatians 3:13), sparing us from this net.

Historical Context

Israel's attempts to escape through Egyptian/Assyrian alliances failed - God's 'net' (Assyrian conquest) caught them. Deportation fulfilled announced curses. That they 'heard' these warnings (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28 publicly read, prophets repeatedly warning) means ignorance is no excuse. They knew consequences, proceeded anyway. Modern application: biblical warnings about sin's consequences aren't threats but merciful advance notice. Heeding them spares judgment; ignoring them guarantees it.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do I respond to biblical warnings about sin's consequences - with repentance or presumption?
2. What does inevitable capture despite attempts to escape teach about the futility of avoiding God's discipline?

Interlinear Text

הַשְׁמַע יְמִינְךָ כְּעֹלָה וְעַלְיוֹן רְשַׁת יְמִינְךָ כְּעֹלָה וְעַלְיוֹן
H834 H1980 I will spread H6566 H5921 my net H7568 as the fowls H5775 of the heaven H8064

אֶת־עַדְתְּךָ מִעַלְיוֹן אֶת־עַדְתְּךָ מִעַלְיוֹן
upon them I will bring them down I will chastise hath heard
H3381 H3256 H8088

לעַדְתֶּם:

them as their congregation

H5712

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 12:13 (Parallel theme): My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.