

Hosea 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.

Analysis

Training betrayers: 'Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.' God declares אָנִי יִסְרַתִּי חִזְקָתִי זְרוּעוֹתָם (ani yissarti chizaqti zero'otam): 'I disciplined/trained, I strengthened their arms'—yet they devise (יַחֲשְׁבוּ, yechashevu) evil (רָע, ra) against Him. Divine beneficence met with plotting rebellion. This describes supreme ingratitude: using God-given strength against Him. Romans 1:21 similarly condemns those knowing God yet not glorifying Him. Israel's strength—military, economic, political—all derived from covenant relationship, yet deployed for covenant violation. Only Christ perfectly uses strength for divine purposes, glorifying Father in all things (John 17:4).

Historical Context

God's covenant faithfulness provided Israel every advantage: deliverance from Egypt, conquest of Canaan, military victories, economic prosperity. Even in apostasy, God 'bound and strengthened'—disciplining and empowering them. Yet they used these gifts for rebellion: military strength for alliances with pagan nations, prosperity for luxury and oppression, freedom for idolatry. This demonstrates tragic irony: covenant blessings enabling covenant rebellion. Archaeological evidence confirms Israel's prosperity during periods of greatest apostasy (Jeroboam II era). Church history parallels: Christian nations using gospel-enabled prosperity and freedom for secular rebellion against Christian foundations.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do people use God-given gifts and strengths for rebellion against Him rather than service?
2. What does this verse teach about accountability—that receiving divine blessings increases rather than decreases moral obligation?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲנִי י	יִסְרֵתִי	חַזְקֵתִי	יִזְרְעֵתָּם	וְאֵלֵי י
H589	Though I have bound	and strengthened	their arms	H413
	H3256	H2388	H2220	
יִחְשְׁבוּ	רָעָה:			
yet do they imagine	mischief			
H2803	H7451			

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:9 (Parallel theme): What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

Revelation 3:19 (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Hebrews 12:5 (Parallel theme): And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Acts 4:25 (Parallel theme): Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

Psalms 62:3 (Parallel theme): How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence.

Psalms 94:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Psalms 2:1 (Parallel theme): Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Job 5:17 (Parallel theme): Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Proverbs 3:11 (Parallel theme): My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

Jeremiah 17:9 (Parallel theme): The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?