

Hosea 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.

Analysis

Drunken revelry and conspiracy: 'In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.' Royal celebrations become occasions for conspiracy. The king made sick (הֶחֱלִיו מִחֶמֶת, *hechelu mechamat*—literally 'made sick from heat of') wine, extending hand (מָשַׁךְ יָדוֹ, *mashakh yado*) with לֹצְצִים (lotsetsim, scorners/mockers). Drunkenness facilitates treachery; impaired judgment enables manipulation. Proverbs 20:1, 31:4-5 warn leaders against wine clouding judgment. When rulers join mockers, wisdom departs and destruction approaches. Only Christ our King never falters in judgment, righteousness, or wisdom (Isaiah 11:2-5).

Historical Context

Royal feasts in ancient Near East were occasions for both celebration and political maneuvering. The account of Zimri assassinating Elah 'drinking himself drunk' at Tirzah (1 Kings 16:8-10) provides biblical parallel. Similar to Belshazzar's feast interrupted by handwriting on wall (Daniel 5). The atmosphere of drunken revelry lowered defenses, enabling conspirators to strike or manipulate. The reference to king joining 'scorners' suggests alliance with cynical, ungodly advisors rather than wise counselors (Psalm 1:1). Archaeological evidence shows luxury and excess characterizing Israel's ruling class during this period, confirming prophetic critiques. This demonstrates that leaders abandoning sobriety and wisdom for indulgence and foolish company court disaster.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does substance abuse and intoxication compromise judgment and enable ungodly influences?
2. What does the king's alliance with 'scorners' teach about the importance of wise counsel versus foolish companionship in leadership?

Interlinear Text

יּוֹם	מֶלֶךְנוּ	הִחָל ו	שָׂרֵי ים	חֲמֹת	מִיַּין
In the day	of our king	have made him sick	the princes	with bottles	of wine
H3117	H4428	H2470	H8269	H2534	H3196
מָשַׁךְ	יָדוֹ	אֶת	לִצְצִים:		
he stretched out	his hand	H854	with scorners		
H4900	H3027		H3945		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!