

Hosea 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

Analysis

Sacrifices of hypocrisy: 'They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.' They perform זִבְחֵי הַבְּהֵמָה (zivchei havhavai, sacrifices of My offerings), eating flesh—outward ritual maintained. Yet God neither accepts (לֹא רָצָם, lo ratsam) nor forgets iniquity (יִזְכֹּר עֲוֹנָם, yizkor avonam). Result: return to מִצְרַיִם (Mitsrayim, Egypt)—bondage revisited. This teaches that ritual without obedience is worthless (1 Samuel 15:22, Hosea 6:6). Sacrifices from unrepentant hearts compound rather than remove guilt. Only Christ's perfect sacrifice, offered once, secures eternal acceptance (Hebrews 10:10-14).

Historical Context

Israel maintained sacrificial system even while violating covenant. Archaeological evidence shows animal bones at northern worship sites, confirming continued sacrifice. Yet divorced from proper sanctuary, priesthood, and heart-obedience, sacrifices became empty ritual. The threat 'return to Egypt' prophesies renewed bondage—fulfilled through Assyrian exile. Some fled literally to Egypt (later, after northern fall, refugees went to Egypt and Judah). Spiritually, exile represented returning to pre-Exodus condition: slavery and oppression. Deuteronomy covenant

curses threatened this reversal (Deuteronomy 28:68). This demonstrates that covenant violation results in covenant blessings reversed—from freedom to bondage, promised land to exile.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can maintaining religious rituals while living in disobedience actually compound guilt rather than remove it?
2. What does 'return to Egypt' symbolize regarding reversal of redemption when covenant is violated?

Interlinear Text

זִבְחֵי י' for the sacrifices H2077	הִבְהֵבִי י' of mine offerings H1890	יִזְבְּחוּ ו' They sacrifice H2076	בָּשָׂר flesh H1320	וַיֹּאכְלוּ and eat H398
יְהוָה ה' it but the LORD H3068	לֹא H3808	רָצָה accepteth H7521	עַתָּה ה' H6258	יִזְכֹּר them not now will he remember H2142
עֲוֹנָם their iniquity H5771	וַיִּפְקְדוּ and visit H6485	חַטֹּאוֹתֵם their sins H2403	הָמָּה H1992	מִצְרַיִם to Egypt H4714
				יָשׁוּבוּ they shall return H7725

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 9:6 (References Egypt): For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.

Hosea 9:9 (Sin): They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

Isaiah 1:11 (Sacrifice): To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

Jeremiah 14:10 (Sin): Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.

Deuteronomy 28:68 (References Lord): And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

Amos 8:7 (References Lord): The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

Amos 5:22 (Sacrifice): Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

Hosea 5:6 (References Lord): They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

Hosea 11:5 (References Egypt): He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.