

Hosea 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

Analysis

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.' Proverbial wisdom: sowing wind (worthless effort) reaps whirlwind (devastating consequences). Agricultural imagery continues: no stalk, no meal - complete crop failure. Even if some yield exists, 'strangers swallow it' - foreign nations consume any productivity. This describes futility: investing in what produces nothing, losing even that little to enemies. Galatians 6:7 warns: 'Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: whatever one sows, that will he also reap.' Sowing sin reaps judgment.

Historical Context

Israel's political and religious policies ('sowing') produced disaster ('whirlwind'). Foreign alliances, idolatry, and injustice yielded no benefit, only greater problems. Whatever productivity remained, Assyria consumed through tribute then conquest. The economic futility described here preceded and accompanied military defeat. Modern parallel: policies and practices contrary to God's wisdom ultimately fail catastrophically. Jeremiah 12:13 similarly warns: 'They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns; they have tired themselves out but profit nothing.'

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'wind' am I sowing (worthless efforts apart from God) that will reap whirlwind (devastating consequences)?
2. How does the principle of sowing and reaping demonstrate inevitable accountability for choices and actions?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁוֹת הַמְּלָאכִים
H3588 the wind For they have sown the whirlwind and they shall reap
H7307 H2232 H5492 H7114

אֹלֶלֶל מִלְחָמָה
it hath no stalk H369 H0 the bud H1097 shall yield no meal if
H7054 H6780 H6213 H7058 H194

יְבָלָעַתְהוּ
shall yield the strangers shall swallow it up
H6213 H2114 H1104

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 22:8 (Parallel theme): He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

Job 4:8 (Parallel theme): Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

Galatians 6:7 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Nahum 1:3 (Parallel theme): The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Hosea 7:9 (Parallel theme): Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.

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