

Hosea 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.

Analysis

Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.¹ Israel warned against rejoicing like pagans celebrating harvest. Their harvest festivals dishonored God through attributing provision to Baal and practicing cult prostitution ('loved reward upon every cornfloor'). 'Reward' (ethnan) means prostitute's wages - they treated provision as payment from Baal for ritual sex. This perverted worship. True thanksgiving recognizes God as Provider. James 1:17 declares: 'Every good gift comes from Father of lights.' Only worship acknowledging God's provision honors Him.

Historical Context

Harvest festivals in Israel copied Canaanite fertility cult practices - sexual ritual at threshing floors, crediting Baal for crops. Archaeological evidence confirms cult prostitution at high places and agricultural sites. Deuteronomy 26:1-11 prescribed thanksgiving offerings recognizing YHWH as Provider, but Israel corrupted this. Modern parallel: celebration of provision without acknowledging God as source constitutes practical atheism. Only grateful worship recognizing divine providence honors God and sustains blessing.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do I ensure thanksgiving for provision acknowledges God as source rather than crediting natural processes or my effort?
2. What does treating divine provision as 'reward from lovers' teach about perversion of worship through misattributing blessings?

Interlinear Text

כִּי כָּעֵד יְמִינָה אֶל תְּשַׁמֵּחַ כִּי כָּעֵד יְמִינָה אֶל יִשְׁרָאֵל לֹא תְּשַׁמֵּחַ כִּי כָּעֵד יְמִינָה אֶל גַּילְגָּל כִּי כָּעֵד יְמִינָה אֶל יִשְׁרָאֵל לֹא תְּשַׁמֵּחַ כִּי כָּעֵד יְמִינָה אֶל
H408 Rejoice H8055 H3478 H413 for joy H1524 H5971 H3588 as other people

אַתָּה | אַתָּה בְּתַת אֱלֹהִים מֵעַל יְמִינָה לְתַת יְמִינָה
for thou hast gone a whoring H2181 H5921 from thy God H430 thou hast loved H157 a reward H868

לְתַתְּלִי: גַּרְבָּנָה וְתַתְּלִי: כָּל עַל
H5921 H3605 upon every cornfloor H1637 H1715

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 10:5 (Parallel theme): The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Beth-aven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it.

Jeremiah 44:17 (Parallel theme): But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and

our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Hosea 4:12 (References God): My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

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