

# Hosea 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.

## Analysis

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God's nostalgic lament: 'I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.' The imagery recalls election's early joy: finding grapes in desert (unexpected delight) and first-ripe figs (choice fruit, highly prized). Israel's wilderness generation showed promise. But 'they went to Baalpeor' (Numbers 25:1-9), where they engaged in sexual immorality and idolatry with Moabite women, provoking plague that killed 24,000. 'Separated themselves unto that shame' (yinnazeru la-boshet)—consecrating themselves to shameful idols instead of YHWH. This pattern persisted: early promise followed by apostasy. The tragic trajectory: chosen for glory, descending into shame through idolatry.

## Historical Context

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The Baalpeor incident (Numbers 25, circa 1406 BC) occurred just before entering Canaan. Balaam's failed curses (Numbers 22-24) couldn't stop Israel, but he apparently counseled Moab to seduce them into idolatry (Numbers 31:16, Revelation 2:14). Sexual immorality and idol worship intertwined—Baal worship incorporated cult prostitution. God's jealous response (plague) demonstrated that covenant unfaithfulness provokes severe judgment. Hosea uses this historical

example to indict contemporary Israel: they've repeated the Baalpeor pattern throughout their history. Psalm 106:28-29 also recalls this shameful episode. The warning applies: those who begin well can fall into shameful apostasy if they don't guard their hearts. Paul warns: 'let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall' (1 Corinthians 10:12).

## **Related Passages**

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does my current spiritual state compare to my 'first love' when I initially encountered God's grace?
2. What modern 'Baalpeors'—enticing compromises with the world—threaten to turn my devotion into shameful idolatry?

## Interlinear Text

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כַּעֲנַב יִם	בַּמִּדְבָּר ר	מָצָא אֹתִי	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	כַּכּוֹכֵה ה	
like grapes	in the wilderness	I found	Israel	as the firstripe	
H6025	H4057	H4672	H3478	H1063	
בְּתֵאֵנָה	בְּרִאשִׁיתָהּ ה	רָאִיתִי	אֲבוֹתֶיךָ מ	הֵן מָה	בָּאוּ
in the fig tree	at her first time	I saw	your fathers	H1992	but they went
H8384	H7225	H7200	H1		H935
בָּעַל	פָּעֹר וֹר	וַנִּזְרָו	לְבָשֵׁת	וַיְהִי ו	
H0	to Baalpeor	and separated	themselves unto that shame	H1961	
	H1187	H5144	H1322		
שְׁקִוְצֵי יִם	כַּאֲהֻבָּם:				
and their abominations	were according as they loved				
H8251	H157				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 11:13** (Parallel theme): For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal.

**Hosea 4:14** (Parallel theme): I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.

**Ezekiel 20:8** (Parallel theme): But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

**Hosea 2:15** (Parallel theme): And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

**Micah 7:1** (Parallel theme): Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

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