

# Hosea 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!

## Analysis

Woe to departed: 'Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there be not a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!' Even if children survive infancy, God will bereave (שְׁכֵל, shikkel—make childless) until אין אדם (ein adam, no man left). The climax: אֹי גָּם־לֹהֶם בְּשׁוּרִי מְהֵם (oy-gam-lahem besuri mehem, woe also to them when I depart from them). Greatest judgment: divine departure. Presence withdrawn means blessing ended. Ezekiel witnessed glory departing temple (Ezekiel 10:18-19, 11:23). Only Christ's name—Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23)—guarantees permanent divine presence (Matthew 28:20).

## Historical Context

The prophecy describes systematic population depletion through war, exile, and assimilation. Assyrian policy included deportation and foreign colonization, ensuring original population disappeared. The final 'woe when I depart' proves most devastating: God's protective presence withdrawn means total vulnerability. 1 Samuel 4:21—'Ichabod...The glory is departed from Israel'—anticipates this condition. When divine presence leaves, no human effort secures safety. Archaeological silence regarding northern tribes post-722 BC confirms complete disappearance. This demonstrated that God's presence, not human strength, constitutes true security. Losing divine favor means losing everything meaningful.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How does divine departure ('woe...when I depart') represent the ultimate curse, worse than any physical judgment?
2. What does Immanuel (God with us) promise about Christ's permanent presence versus conditional Sinai covenant presence?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְאִם יִגְדְּל֣ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׁפְּלַת יְמֵינוּ  
H3588 H518 Though they bring up H1431 H853 their children H1121 yet will I bereave H7921

מְאֵץ מִנְחָת אֵת לְבָבָם  
them that there shall not be a man H120 H3588 H1571 left yea woe H188 H0

בְּשֹׁ�ר מִקְרָם  
also to them when I depart H5493 H1992

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Hosea 7:13** (Parallel theme): Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

**Deuteronomy 32:25** (Parallel theme): The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

**Deuteronomy 31:17** (Parallel theme): Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

**Hosea 9:16** (Parallel theme): Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)