

Hosea 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.

Analysis

Pleasant place to slaughter: 'Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.' The comparison to Tyre (צָר, Tsor)—wealthy, pleasant city—emphasizes Ephraim's previous prosperity. Yet despite pleasant planting (שָׁתָּול בְּנָה, shatul benaweh), children go to the slayer (lahoreg, to the slayer/murderer). This demonstrates that outward prosperity means nothing when covenant is broken. Beautiful setting becomes killing ground. Only Christ provides security transcending circumstances (Romans 8:38-39).

Historical Context

Tyre, Phoenician coastal city, renowned for beauty, wealth, and strategic location (Ezekiel 27-28 describes extensively). Hosea compares northern Israel's pleasant territory—fertile valleys, strategic location—to Tyre. Archaeological evidence confirms 8th century prosperity. Yet this beauty and wealth couldn't prevent judgment: children slaughtered in Assyrian invasion. Ancient warfare was brutal; children killed or enslaved. The contrast between pleasant planting and violent harvest emphasizes irony: covenant blessing (pleasant land) wasted through covenant violation, becoming setting for covenant curse (children to murderers). This demonstrated that geography and prosperity cannot substitute for faithfulness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does pleasant outward circumstances (like Tyre) provide false security when spiritual foundations are corrupt?
2. What does 'bringing forth children to the murderer' teach about generational consequences of covenant violation?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| בְּנֵי הָ | שְׁתַׁולֵּה | לֹצֶר | כִּאִיתִי | פָּאָשֵׂר | וְאַפְּנֵם | ! |
| Ephraim | H834 | as I saw | | Tyrus | is planted | in a pleasant place |
| H669 | | H7200 | | H6865 | H8362 | H5116 |
| ! | וְאַפְּנֵם | אֶל | לְהוֹצֵא | אֵין | הַבָּנִים | ! |
| Ephraim | shall bring forth | H413 | to the murderer | his children | | |
| H669 | H3318 | | H2026 | | H1121 | |

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 27:3 (Parallel theme): And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty.