

# 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

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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 (צֹר, Tsor)—wealthy, pleasant city—emphasizes Ephraim's previous prosperity. Yet despite pleasant planting (שָׁתוּל בְּנוֹהַ, shatul benaweh), children go לַהֲרֹג (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

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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.

