

Hosea 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?

Analysis

No festive days: 'What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?' Rhetorical question: מה־תַּעֲשׂוּ (mah-ta'asu, what will you do) for appointed feasts (מוֹעֵד, mo'ed; חַג, chag)? Answer implied: nothing—exile prevents celebrating appointed times. Leviticus 23 prescribed festivals requiring temple access, land produce, covenant community. Exile ends all. This demonstrates that rebellion costs celebratory covenant relationship. Only Christ fulfills all feasts (Passover, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Tabernacles), enabling eternal celebration (Colossians 2:16-17, Hebrews 4:9-10).

Historical Context

Israel's religious calendar structured around agricultural festivals tied to land: Passover/Unleavened Bread (spring barley), Pentecost/Weeks (spring wheat), Tabernacles/Ingathering (fall harvest). These required Jerusalem pilgrimage (Deuteronomy 16:16-17), offerings of land produce, covenant community gathering. Northern kingdom had established alternative sites (Bethel, Dan), but even these became impossible in Assyrian exile—scattered, landless, no sanctuary. The rhetorical question emphasizes loss: how celebrate harvest festivals without land or harvest? How observe pilgrimage feasts without temple? This demonstrated that covenant disobedience results in covenant joy lost. Post-exilic Judaism adapted (synagogue worship), but exile initially ended festive worship.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does loss of ability to celebrate appointed feasts demonstrate covenant relationship broken?
2. What does Christ's fulfillment of all biblical feasts teach about how the gospel transforms religious observance?

Interlinear Text

מָה	תַּעֲשֶׂה וְ	וּלְיָ וּם	מוֹעֵד	וּלְיָ וּם	חַג
H4100	What will ye do	and in the day	in the solemn	and in the day	of the feast
	H6213	H3117	H4150	H3117	H2282
יְהוָה:					
of the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:3 (Parallel theme): And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

Jeremiah 5:31 (Parallel theme): The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Hosea 2:11 (Parallel theme): I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

Joel 1:13 (Parallel theme): Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

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