

Hosea 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.

Analysis

For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles. Prophecy of exile death: Egypt gathers (collects bodies), Memphis (Egyptian city) buries them. Pleasant places (homes) become overgrown with nettles and thorns - complete desolation. Reverses promised land blessings to curse imagery (Genesis 3:18, thorns/thistles). Only Christ removes curse, creating new creation where curse exists no more (Revelation 22:3).

Historical Context

Some Israelites fled to Egypt after Assyrian pressure (Jeremiah records similar Judean flight, Jeremiah 42-44). Many died there, buried in Memphis. Meanwhile, Israel became desolate - thorns overgrowing homes. Archaeological evidence shows 8th century abandonment of sites. This fulfilled covenant curse: enjoying others' labor, losing your own (Deuteronomy 28:30-33). Modern application: fleeing God's discipline into worldly refuge (Egypt) leads to death and loss. Only submitting to divine discipline brings restoration.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What Egypts (worldly refuges) am I fleeing to instead of submitting to God's discipline?
2. How does imagery of pleasant places overtaken by thorns warn about consequences of abandoning God's ways?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵנָּה	הֵלְכוּ	מִשְׁדֵּד	מִצְרַיִם
H3588	H2009	For lo they are gone	because of destruction	Egypt
		H1980	H7701	H4714
תִּקְבְּצוּם	מִן	תִּקְבְּרוּם	מִחֲמַד	לְכִסְפָּם
shall gather them up	Memphis	shall bury	them the pleasant	places for their silver
H6908	H4644	H6912	H4261	H3701
קִמּוֹשׁ	יִירָשׁוּם	חֲוִי	בְּאֶהְלֵיהֶם:	
nettles	shall possess	them thorns	shall be in their tabernacles	
H7057	H3423	H2336	H168	

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 10:8 (Parallel theme): The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

Isaiah 5:6 (Parallel theme): And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

Isaiah 7:23 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that every place shall be, where there were a thousand vines at a thousand silverlings, it shall even be for briers and thorns.

Hosea 9:3 (References Egypt): They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.

Hosea 8:13 (References Egypt): They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

Hosea 7:16 (References Egypt): They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.