

# Hosea 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

## Analysis

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The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God. The watchman (prophet) should align with God, but instead became snare (trap) in all ways, spreading hatred even in God's house (temple/worship). This describes prophetic corruption - those commissioned to warn became deceivers. False prophets trap people through lies. Jeremiah 23 similarly condemns: prophets prophesy lies in my name. Only Christ is faithful Prophet, revealing truth. His apostles warn against false teachers (2 Peter 2, Jude).

## Historical Context

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Israel's false prophets promised peace when judgment loomed (Jeremiah 6:14), leading people into complacency. Rather than calling to repentance, they justified sin. That hatred existed in God's house shows worship became battleground - true vs. false messages. Micah 3:5-7 similarly condemns prophets leading people astray. Modern application: false teaching traps people through deception. Only testing teachings against Scripture exposes snares. Bereans examined Scripture daily to verify truth (Acts 17:11). Vigilance against false teaching protects from deception.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do I discern between faithful watchmen warning of danger and false prophets setting snares through deception?
2. What does hatred in God's house teach about spiritual warfare over truth occurring even in religious contexts?

## Interlinear Text

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צֶפֶה הַ	אֶפְרַיִם יִם	עִם	אֱלֹהֵיוֹ:	נָבִיא	פֶּה	יָקוֹשׁ
The watchman	of Ephraim	H5973	of his God	but the prophet	is a snare	of a fowler
H6822	H669		H430	H5030	H6341	H3352
עַל	כָּל	דְּרָכָיו	מִשְׂטֵמָה הַ	בֵּית יֵת	אֱלֹהֵיוֹ:	
H5921	H3605	in all his ways	and hatred	in the house	of his God	
		H1870	H4895	H1004	H430	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 3:17** (Parallel theme): Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

**Hosea 5:1** (Parallel theme): Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor.

**Isaiah 62:6** (Parallel theme): I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

**Micah 7:4** (Parallel theme): The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

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