

1 Peter 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Analysis

Peter applies Hosea's prophecy to church. "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God" (hoi pote ou laos, nyn de laos theou) quotes Hosea 2:23. Gentiles, formerly excluded from covenant, now constitute God's people through Christ. "Which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (hoi ouk ēlēmenoi, nyn de eleēthentes) emphasizes transformation from judgment to grace. This radical shift demonstrates gospel power—transforming outsiders into insiders, strangers into family, enemies into beloved.

Historical Context

Hosea prophesied Israel's restoration after judgment. Peter applies this to Gentile inclusion in covenant community—stunning claim that offended Jewish exclusivists. The church, predominantly Gentile by time of writing, fulfilled promises made to Israel. This doesn't mean replacement but expansion—one people of God comprising believing Jews and Gentiles (Galatians 3:28-29, Ephesians 2:11-22). Early church struggled with Jew-Gentile unity; Peter's teaching promoted reconciliation in Christ.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should knowing you were 'not a people' but now are 'God's people' shape your identity and purpose?
2. What does receiving mercy (which you didn't obtain before) motivate in terms of showing mercy to others?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	πότε	οὐκ	λαὸς	νῦν	δὲ	λαὸς	θεοῦ	οἱ
Which	in time past	had not	a people	are now	but	a people	of God	Which
G3588	G4218	G3756	G2992	G3568	G1161	G2992	G2316	G3588
οὐκ	έλεηθέντες	νῦν	δὲ	έλεηθέντες				
had not	have obtained mercy	are now	but	have obtained mercy				
G3756	G1653	G3568	G1161	G1653				

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 2:23 (Grace): And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Hebrews 4:16 (Grace): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Timothy 1:13 (Grace): Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Romans 10:19 (Parallel theme): But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Romans 11:30 (Grace): For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

1 Corinthians 7:25 (Grace): Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

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