

Amos 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?

Analysis

God's stunning question deflates Israel's ethnic pride: 'Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?' The comparison to Ethiopians (Cushites—distant, dark-skinned people) and the assertion that God orchestrated pagan migrations (Philistines from Caphtor/Crete, Syrians from Kir) as much as Israel's Exodus shatters presumption. Israel assumed Exodus gave them exclusive privilege; God reveals He sovereignly directs all nations' histories. Ethnic identity doesn't guarantee divine favor; covenant relationship requires covenant faithfulness. Paul develops this: true Israel is defined by faith, not ethnicity (Romans 2:28-29, 9:6-8, Galatians 3:7-9, 6:15-16). Physical descent from Abraham doesn't save; only faith in Abraham's God does.

Historical Context

Israel's covenant pride was immense: God chose them, delivered them from Egypt, gave them the land. They interpreted this as unconditional favoritism regardless of obedience. Amos demolishes this: God governs all nations equally; covenant privilege brings accountability, not immunity (3:2). The Philistines' migration from Caphtor (Crete/Aegean region) and Arameans' from Kir (somewhere in

Mesopotamia) were divinely orchestrated just as Israel's Exodus was—God's providence extends universally. This levels the playing field: all nations are accountable to God; covenant people face greater judgment when they violate it. John the Baptist later warned: 'Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father' (Matthew 3:9). Presuming on heritage while lacking faith is fatal.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do I presume spiritual security based on heritage, church membership, or past experiences rather than present faith and obedience?
2. How does understanding God's universal sovereignty over all nations affect my view of election and evangelism?

Interlinear Text

הֶל וְאֵל	בְּנֵי יִ	כְּשֵׁי יִם	לִי אֶת־	ם		
H3808	Are ye not as children	of the Ethiopians	H859	H0		
	H1121	H3569				
בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	נֹאם	יְהוָה ה	הֶל וְאֵל	אֶת־	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל
Are ye not as children	Israel	saith	the LORD	H3808	H853	Israel
H1121	H3478	H5002	H3068			H3478
הֶעָלִי יְתִי	מֵאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	וּפְלִשְׁתִּי יִם	מִכְפֹּת וֹר		
Have not I brought up	out of the land	of Egypt	and the Philistines	from Capthor		
H5927	H776	H4714	H6430	H3731		
וְאֶת־	מִקִּיר:					
and the Syrians	from Kir					
H758	H7024					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 47:4 (References Lord): Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, and to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Captor.

Deuteronomy 2:23 (Parallel theme): And the Avims which dwelt in Hazerim, even unto Azzah, the Capthorims, which came forth out of Capthor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.)

2 Kings 16:9 (Parallel theme): And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

Amos 1:5 (References Lord): I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.

Amos 2:10 (References Egypt): Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

Isaiah 22:6 (Parallel theme): And Elam bare the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield.

Jeremiah 13:23 (Parallel theme): Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Hosea 12:13 (References Lord): And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.

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