

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

בְּלֹא

H3808

בָּנִים

H1121

כָּשִׁים

H3569

לֹא אַתָּה

H859

H0

Are ye not as children

בָּנִים

Isreal

saith the LORD

H3808

H853

Isreal

H3478

H1121

H3478

H5002

H3068

בָּנָל יְהִי

H5927

מִצְרָיִם

H776

מִצְרָיִם

H4714

וּפָלָשְׁתִּים

H6430

מִכְפָּת וּרְ

H3731

Have not I brought up out of the land

of Egypt

and the Philistines

מִקִּיר: וְאַתָּה

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 Capthor.

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.