

Hosea 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

Analysis

The weaning and third child: 'Now when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.' The time gap (weaning typically occurred around age 3 in ancient Near East) suggests passage of years between prophecies. Gomer's continued childbearing despite marital unfaithfulness mirrors Israel's continued existence despite spiritual adultery. Each child represents progressive judgment: Jezreel (scattering), Lo-ruhamah (no mercy), and Lo-ammi (not my people, v. 9). The pattern intensifies, moving from external defeat to relational rejection. This demonstrates God's patience—judgment unfolds gradually, allowing opportunity for repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Yet when repentance doesn't come, judgment progresses to its inevitable conclusion. The gospel reverses each name: scattered Israel gathered, unmercied shown mercy, not-my-people becomes God's people (Romans 9:25-26).

Historical Context

The spacing of Hosea's children may correspond to historical developments: Jezreel born during Jeroboam II's reign (prosperity masking decay), Lo-ruhamah during the chaotic period of assassinations (752-732 BC), and Lo-ammi during final collapse under Assyrian pressure (732-722 BC). Each child functioned as living sermon, embodying God's progressive revelation of coming judgment. Hosea's family life became prophetic sign-act, similar to Isaiah naming children Maher-shalal-hash-baz and Shear-jashub (Isaiah 7:3, 8:3). Ancient Near Eastern prophets frequently used symbolic actions and names to communicate divine messages. This

demonstrates God's creative communication, using all of life—including painful personal circumstances—to reveal truth.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's patience in progressive judgment (Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, Lo-ammi) demonstrate both His mercy in delaying wrath and His certainty in executing it?
2. In what ways has God used difficult circumstances in my life as opportunities to reveal His truth to others?

Interlinear Text

וַתֵּגֶם לַ	אֶת	לֹא	לֹרְחָמָה	וַתַּהַר	וַתֵּלֶד	בֵּן:
Now when she had weaned	H853	H0	Loruhamah	she conceived	and bare	a son
H1580			H3819	H2029	H3205	H1121

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