

Hosea 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them.

Analysis

Teaching to walk: 'I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them.' Tender imagery: God teaching (תִּרְגַּלְתִּי, *tirgalti*) Ephraim to walk, holding זְרוֹעֵתָם (*zero'otam*, their arms) like parent with toddler. Yet לא יָדְעוּ כִּי רָפֵאתִים (lo yade'u ki refatim, they knew not that I healed them). This demonstrates divine parental care: teaching, supporting, healing—yet unrecognized and unappreciated. The ignorance is willful: refusing to acknowledge benefactor. Only Spirit-opened eyes recognize God's faithful care (Ephesians 1:18).

Historical Context

The imagery recalls exodus and wilderness period: God teaching infant nation to walk in covenant faithfulness, supporting them through difficulties, healing their diseases (Exodus 15:26). Yet Israel attributed blessings to Baal (2:5,8) or their own strength—not recognizing YHWH's providential care. This ingratitude characterizes fallen humanity: receiving divine gifts daily while denying Giver (Romans 1:21). Archaeological and historical evidence shows Israel's prosperity and survival despite their unfaithfulness—entirely due to God's covenant faithfulness, yet unacknowledged by them. This demonstrates that recognizing divine blessing requires spiritual sight, not merely experiencing blessing.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the parent-child imagery reveal God's tender care despite Israel's rebellion?
2. What causes people to not 'know' (recognize/acknowledge) that God heals and sustains them despite experiencing His care?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵנֹכִי	תִּרְגַּל לְתִי	לְאַפְרַיִם	קֹחַ מִ	עַל	זְרוּעֹתַי	וְלֹא
H595	I taught	Ephraim	taking	H5921	them by their arms	H3808
	H8637	H669	H3947		H2220	
יָדָעוּ	כִּי	רַפָּאֲתִים:				
but they knew	H3588	not that I healed				
H3045		H7495				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:17 (Parallel theme): For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

Deuteronomy 1:31 (Parallel theme): And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

Exodus 15:26 (Parallel theme): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Hosea 7:15 (Parallel theme): Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.

Isaiah 46:3 (Parallel theme): Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 30:26 (Parallel theme): Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Acts 13:18 (Parallel theme): And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

Exodus 23:25 (Parallel theme): And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

Hosea 7:1 (Parallel theme): When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.