

# Hosea 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

## Analysis

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Self-destruction: 'O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.' The indictment: שְׁחִתָּךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל (shichetcha Yisrael, you destroyed yourself, O Israel). Yet the hope: כִּי-בָּרוּךְ הוּא אֱלֹהִים (ki-vi ve'ezrekha, for in Me is your help). This demonstrates that sin is self-destructive—we bring ruin on ourselves. Yet divine help remains available—God willing to save if we turn. The tension: human responsibility for sin, divine provision for salvation. Only Christ saves us from self-destruction (Matthew 1:21).

## Historical Context

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The entire prophetic indictment demonstrates Israel brought judgment on themselves: idolatry, injustice, covenant violation—all willful choices producing inevitable consequences. Yet throughout, God offered help: prophetic warnings, calls to repentance, promises of restoration if they turned. Their refusal to access available help compounded guilt. Archaeological and historical evidence shows Assyrian conquest resulted from political and religious policies Israel chose—self-inflicted wounds. This demonstrates that while God provides salvation, humans must access it through repentance and faith. Refusing offered help is ultimate tragedy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does 'you destroyed yourself' establish human responsibility for sin and its consequences?
2. What does 'in Me is your help' teach about divine grace remaining available despite deserved judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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שְׁמַתָּךְ לְעִזָּתְךָ בָּרָא אֹתָךְ  
thou hast destroyed O Israel thyself but in me is thine help  
H7843 H3478 H3588 H0 H5828

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 2:19** (Parallel theme): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

**Jeremiah 2:17** (Parallel theme): Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?

**Deuteronomy 33:26** (Parallel theme): There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.

**Jeremiah 5:25** (Parallel theme): Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

**Hosea 14:1** (References Israel): O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.