

Hosea 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him,
Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we
render the calves of our lips.

Analysis

Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. Instructions for repentance: take words (prayer/confession), ask God to remove iniquity and receive graciously, offer praise (calves of lips) instead of animal sacrifices. Hebrews 13:15 applies this: sacrifice of praise, fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. True worship requires mercy, not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6). Christ fulfilled sacrificial system; we offer thankful worship through Him.

Historical Context

The phrase calves of lips contrasts with golden calves Israel worshiped - words of praise replace idolatrous sacrifices. This anticipates new covenant worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24), not dependent on location or ritual. When temple was destroyed (70 AD), this prophecy prepared for worship continuing without sacrifices. Christianity fulfills this: Christ's once-for-all sacrifice ended animal offerings; we offer spiritual worship through Him.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do I ensure my worship consists of calves of lips (genuine praise) rather than empty ritual?
2. What does taking words to God teach about prayer's centrality in true repentance?

Interlinear Text

וְקַח	עִמָּכֶם	דְּבַר יָם	וְשׁ וּבוֹ	אֶל	יְהוָה	אָמַר ו	אֵל יוֹ
Take	H5973	with you words	and turn	H413	to the LORD	say	H413
H3947		H1697	H7725		H3068	H559	
כָּל	תֶּשֶׁא	עוֹן	וְקַח	ט וּב	וְנִשְׁלַמְהָ		
H3605	unto him Take away	all iniquity	Take	us graciously	so will we render		
	H5375	H5771	H3947	H2896	H7999		
פֶּה יָם	שְׁפָתֵינוּ:						
the calves	of our lips						
H6499	H8193						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:15 (Parallel theme): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Job 7:21 (Sin): And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

1 John 3:5 (Sin): And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Luke 18:13 (Grace): And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Joel 2:17 (References Lord): Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

1 Peter 2:5 (Parallel theme): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

2 Samuel 12:13 (Sin): And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

2 Samuel 24:10 (Sin): And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

Hebrews 10:4 (Sin): For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Isaiah 6:7 (Sin): And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.