

Hosea 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

Analysis

Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. Comprehensive renunciation: no trusting Assyria (foreign alliances), no trusting horses (military power), no trusting handmade idols. Positive declaration: in thee fatherless finds mercy. This demonstrates true repentance - turning from false securities to God alone. Orphan metaphor emphasizes total dependence - no other resource. Only God shows mercy to helpless. Christ embodies this: we are adopted as children through Him (Ephesians 1:5).

Historical Context

This summarizes Israel's three main sins: political alliances (Assyria), military trust (horses/chariots), and idolatry (work of hands). True repentance renounces all. The fatherless finding mercy shows God's character - He helps helpless. Modern application: genuine conversion requires comprehensive turning - from all false securities to Christ alone. Half measures don't constitute true repentance. Only exclusive trust in God's mercy saves.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What Assyrias, horses, or handmade gods do I still trust instead of depending solely on God?
2. How does recognition that I am spiritually fatherless drive me to God for mercy found only in Him?

Interlinear Text

נֶגֶךְ בְּ אָשָׁר וּרְאֵל
Asshur H3808 shall not save H3467 upon horses H5483 us we will not ride H7392

לֹא יְמַצֵּח הָאֱלֹהִים יְהוָה וְאַתָּה
H3808 neither will we say H559 H5750 Ye are our gods H430 any more to the work H4639

יְמַצֵּח מִתְּחִזְקָה אֲשֶׁר יְהִי
of our hands H3027 H834 H0 findeth mercy H7355 for in thee the fatherless H3490

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 10:14 (Parallel theme): Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

Psalms 68:5 (References God): A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Psalms 33:17 (Parallel theme): An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

Isaiah 31:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen,

because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Isaiah 30:16 (Parallel theme): But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.

John 14:18 (Parallel theme): I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Hosea 5:13 (Parallel theme): When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

Hosea 2:17 (Parallel theme): For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

Hosea 14:8 (Parallel theme): Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.