

Hosea 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth,
and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

Analysis

Removing idolatrous names: 'For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.' God promises to erase Baal from Israel's vocabulary—not merely practice but memory. The Hebrew 'take away' (hasiroti) means remove completely. 'Out of her mouth' indicates speech patterns, suggesting thorough cognitive transformation. 'No more remembered' (lo yizzakru) means forgotten, becoming unthinkable. This requires internal change beyond human capacity—only regeneration by the Spirit produces such transformation. Ezekiel 36:25-27 prophesies this: 'I will give you a new heart...put my Spirit within you, causing you to walk in my statutes.' External reform can't erase idolatry from hearts; only new birth creates genuine devotion to God. This anticipates new covenant reality: Christ's work enables transformed affections (2 Corinthians 5:17), making sin that once attracted us repulsive and God our supreme delight.

Historical Context

Post-exilic Judaism developed strong aversion to idolatry, largely fulfilling this prophecy. After Babylonian captivity, Jews never again fell into widespread idol worship—the Exile 'cured' them. Yet Jesus revealed internal idolatry persists despite external purity (Matthew 15:18-19, 23:25-28). True fulfillment requires Holy Spirit's internal work, begun at Pentecost (Acts 2) and continuing in regeneration of believers. That Baal's 'name' would be forgotten shows thorough transformation—not merely avoiding practice but losing all appeal. This

demonstrates sanctification's goal: not merely resisting sin but finding it genuinely unattractive as God becomes our treasure (Matthew 13:44-46). Only Christ makes this possible through His Spirit dwelling in believers (John 14:16-17, Romans 8:9-11).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Have I experienced internal transformation where former idols lose appeal, or do I merely resist them externally?
2. What evidence of Spirit-wrought change demonstrates that idolatrous 'names' are being removed from my heart and mouth?

Interlinear Text

וְיִקְרַת י	אֶת	בְּשָׁמָם:	בְּעָלִים	מִפִּיךְ	לֹא
For I will take away	H5493	H853	by their name	H1168	H3808

וְיִזְכַּר אָתָּה	בְּשָׁמָם:
and they shall no more be remembered	by their name
H2142	H5750
	H8034

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:13 (Parallel theme): And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Psalms 16:4 (Parallel theme): Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.

Joshua 23:7 (Parallel theme): That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

Zechariah 13:2 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

Jeremiah 10:11 (Parallel theme): Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.