

Hosea 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

Analysis

Creation peace covenant: 'And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.' God promises Edenic restoration: covenant with animals recalls creation harmony before the Fall and Noah's covenant (Genesis 9:9-11). Breaking weapons and establishing safety fulfills Isaiah 11:6-9 (wolf dwelling with lamb) and 2:4 (swords into plowshares). This describes Messianic kingdom peace: Christ's reign eliminates warfare and restores creation to intended harmony. 'Lie down safely' echoes Levitical blessings (Leviticus 26:6). Hosea envisions reversal of curse—creation subjected to futility (Romans 8:19-22) awaits liberation through Christ. Ultimate fulfillment comes in new creation (Revelation 21:1-4) where curse is removed entirely (Revelation 22:3). God's redemptive plan encompasses not merely souls but all creation.

Historical Context

Partial historical fulfillment came in periods of Israelite peace (Solomon's reign, post-exilic restoration), yet full realization awaits Christ's return. The promise transcends geopolitical peace, envisioning cosmic restoration. Early church

understood Christ inaugurated but hasn't yet consummated this peace (already/not yet tension). Believers experience foretaste of peace through reconciliation with God (Romans 5:1) and each other (Ephesians 2:14-16), awaiting final peace when Christ returns to establish new creation. That God makes covenant 'for them' shows it's grace, not achievement—He secures peace on behalf of His people. This anticipates Christ's mediation: He secures new covenant on our behalf (Hebrews 7:22, 8:6, 9:15), accomplishing what we couldn't.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of cosmic peace (including creation) shape my understanding of salvation's scope?
2. What foretastes of this coming peace do I experience now through reconciliation with God and others in Christ?

Interlinear Text

עִם כָּה וָיְמָה יִכְרֹת
And in that day will I make a covenant
with them, saith the Lord.

לְבָתְרָה מִמְּבָרֶכֶת
a covenant of peace.

בְּבָתְרָה וְעַמְּדָה
And with the fowls of the heaven
and with the beasts of the field.

וְמִלְּכָמָה וְמִבְּנָה
and with the battle and the sword and the bow
and with the creeping things of the ground.

לְבָטְחָה
safely

וְהַשְׁכַּבְתִּים אֲשֶׁר זָרָעָה
and will make them to lie down out of the earth.

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 34:25 (Covenant): And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

Isaiah 2:4 (Word): And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Psalms 46:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

Jeremiah 23:6 (Parallel theme): In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Isaiah 65:25 (Parallel theme): The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Job 5:23 (Parallel theme): For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.

Zechariah 14:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Isaiah 2:11 (Parallel theme): The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 26:1 (Parallel theme): In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.