

Hosea 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms.

Analysis

Judgment on the children: 'And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms.' While verse 2 addressed the mother (nation), now individual Israelites ('her children') face judgment. 'Children of whoredoms' (benei zenunim) means conceived through/in spiritual adultery—their identity shaped by idolatry. Yet this isn't genetic determinism but spiritual reality: raised in syncretistic worship, they participated in national sin. The refusal of mercy parallels Lo-ruhamah (1:6). Yet amazingly, verse 23 promises reversal: those declared 'children of whoredoms' will become 'children of the living God' (1:10). This transformation requires new birth—regeneration by the Spirit (John 3:3-8). We're all 'by nature children of wrath' (Ephesians 2:3), yet God makes us His children through adoption in Christ (Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:5-7).

Historical Context

Hosea's contemporaries inherited generations of idolatry—170 years since Jeroboam I established golden calf worship (931 BC). Entire generations knew only syncretistic religion, never experiencing pure YHWH worship. Social systems (economics, politics, religion) were structured around idolatry. This total cultural immersion in sin made repentance humanly impossible—only divine intervention could save. Assyrian deportation scattered these 'children of whoredoms' among nations, effectively ending their distinct identity. Yet God's promise remained: a remnant would be restored, and the gospel would gather both Jews and Gentiles

into God's family. Individual Israelites could repent despite cultural apostasy—God saves persons, not merely nations.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does being 'by nature children of wrath' yet made 'children of God' through Christ shape my understanding of salvation by grace alone?
2. What cultural or familial patterns of sin have shaped my identity, and how does the gospel offer new identity in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתֶּן	בְּנֵי	לֵא	אֶבְרַי	לֹא
H853	for they be the children	H3808	And I will not have mercy	H3588
	H1121		H7355	

וְאַתֶּן	בְּנֵי	לֵא	אֶבְרַי	לֹא
for they be the children	of whoredoms		for they be the children	of whoredoms
H1121	H2183		H1121	H2183

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 13:14 (Grace): And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.

Ezekiel 8:18 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Hosea 1:2 (Parallel theme): The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

Hosea 1:6 (Grace): And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Lo-ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

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