

Hosea 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

Analysis

Future repentance and reign: 'Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.' After 'many days' (vv. 3-4), Israel will 'return' (shuvu)—repent, come back to YHWH. They will 'seek the LORD' (baqshu)—pursue relationship earnestly. 'David their king' refers not to historical David (dead 200+ years when Hosea wrote) but Messianic King from David's line (Jeremiah 23:5, Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:24). 'Latter days' (aharit ha-yamim) is technical term for Messianic age. This prophesies Jewish recognition of Jesus as Messiah, fulfilling Romans 11:25-27 ('all Israel shall be saved'). 'Fear the LORD and his goodness' combines reverence with gratitude—proper response to experiencing redemption. God's goodness (tov) inspires both awe and love. This teaches election's security: God promises future conversion of His people Israel, demonstrating His faithfulness transcends their unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

Partial fulfillment came in post-exilic return (538 BC onward), yet 'David their king' wasn't restored then. Zerubbabel (Davidic descendant) led return but wasn't crowned king. True fulfillment awaits Christ's second coming when surviving Jews recognize Him (Zechariah 12:10, 'they shall look on me whom they have pierced, and mourn'). Romans 11:25-27 confirms: after fullness of Gentiles, 'all Israel shall be saved.' Early church saw some Jewish conversions (Acts 2:41, 3,000; 4:4,

5,000); future will see mass conversion. This demonstrates God keeps covenant promises to Israel while including Gentiles through grafting into one olive tree (Romans 11:17-24). David's greater Son, Christ, reigns over reunited people—Jews and Gentiles together worshipping one King.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of Israel's future return and recognition of 'David their king' demonstrate His faithfulness to covenant despite human unfaithfulness?
2. What does 'fearing the LORD and his goodness' teach about proper response to grace—combining reverence and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

אַחַר	יָשׁוּבוּ	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּבִקְשׁוּ	אֶת	יְהוָה
Afterward	return	shall the children	of Israel	and seek	the LORD
H310	H7725	H1121	H3478	H1245	H853 H3068

אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	וְאֵת	דָּוִד	מַלְכָּם	וּפְחָדוּ	אֶל	יְהוָה	וְאֵל
their God		and David	their king	and shall fear		the LORD	
H430	H853	H1732	H4428	H6342	H413	H3068	H413

טוֹב	בְּאַחֲרֵי יָמֵי	הַיָּמִים:
and his goodness	in the latter	days
H2898	H319	H3117

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:9 (Kingdom): But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Isaiah 2:2 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Romans 2:4 (Good): Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Jeremiah 23:5 (Kingdom): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Ezekiel 38:8 (References Israel): After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Ezekiel 16:63 (References God): That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.

Micah 4:1 (References Lord): But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

Jeremiah 33:17 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

Romans 11:25 (References Israel): For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Deuteronomy 4:30 (References God): When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

