

Hosea 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.

Analysis

Covenant treachery: 'They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.' The verb בָּגַד (bagad, 'dealt treacherously') describes covenant violation—marital infidelity applied to God-Israel relationship. The 'strange children' (בָּנִים זָרִים, banim zarim) may be literally children from mixed marriages or figuratively covenant children raised in idolatry rather than YHWH worship. Either way, generational covenant continuity is broken. The judgment 'a month devour them' suggests swift, sudden destruction—one new moon cycle suffices to consume them. Covenant faithfulness must transmit generationally; failure produces children who don't know God (Judges 2:10). Only through gospel does God adopt spiritual children from every nation (Galatians 3:26-29).

Historical Context

Intermarriage with pagans, forbidden in Torah (Deuteronomy 7:3-4), occurred throughout Israel's history, producing children uncircumcised in heart though circumcised in flesh. The northern kingdom's syncretistic worship raised generations knowing ritualistic religion but lacking genuine YHWH covenant relationship. Ezra and Nehemiah later addressed this issue post-exile (Ezra 9-10, Nehemiah 13:23-27). The 'month devouring them' likely references rapid Assyrian conquest. Historically, once Assyria mobilized against northern Israel (732 BC under Tiglath-Pileser III, 722 BC under Shalmaneser V/Sargon II), collapse came

swiftly. This demonstrates that covenant curses, though delayed by divine patience, execute suddenly when judgment arrives.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does parental faithfulness or unfaithfulness affect children's spiritual formation, and what responsibility do parents bear?
2. What does the warning about 'strange children' teach about the necessity of multi-generational discipleship in covenant community?

Interlinear Text

בִּיהוָה	בְּגֵדוֹ	כִּי	בְּנֵי יִם	זָרֵי יִם
against the LORD	They have dealt treacherously	H3588	children	strange
H3068	H898		H1121	H2114
יֵלְדוּ	עַתָּה הֵם	יֹאכְלֵם	חֹדֶשׁ	אֵת
for they have begotten	H6258	devour	now shall a month	H854
H3205		H398	H2320	
הֵלְקֵיהֶם:				
them with their portions				
H2506				

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 6:7 (Parallel theme): But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

Isaiah 48:8 (Parallel theme): Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

Jeremiah 3:20 (References Lord): Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.

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