

# 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

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**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

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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

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בִּיהִti הָ  
against the LORD   They have dealt treacherously      H3068      H898      H3588      children      H2114

אָתָּה      חַדְשָׁה      נִאֵלְמָה      עַתָּה הָ  
now shall a month      devour      for they have begotten      H854      H2320      H6258

פְּלִקְיָהֶם:

them with their portions

H2506

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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