

Hosea 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.

Analysis

When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.' God desires to heal, but Israel's sin prevents it. 'Was discovered' (niglah) means revealed, uncovered - attempts at healing expose deeper corruption. Instead of repentance, exposure reveals more sin: falsehood (sheker), theft, robbery. This demonstrates total depravity - even divine healing efforts encounter resistant wickedness. Yet Christ accomplishes what seemed impossible: healing those who won't be healed through regenerating grace (Ezekiel 36:26-27). Only sovereign grace overcomes resistance.

Historical Context

Hosea's ministry coincided with brief respites from Assyrian pressure - opportunities for healing that Israel squandered through continued rebellion. Each chance for reform revealed deeper corruption. Archaeological evidence shows this period's violence and social chaos. That healing attempts exposed sin demonstrates the depth of Israel's depravity - even mercy met with wickedness. Modern parallel: gospel proclaimed encounters hard hearts, yet God's sovereign grace breaks through (Acts 16:14, 'the Lord opened her heart'). Healing requires more than opportunity - requires regeneration.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Israel's response (deeper sin revealed when God seeks to heal) demonstrate total depravity's reality?
2. What does God's persistent desire to heal despite Israel's wickedness teach about His grace and our need for sovereign regeneration?

Interlinear Text

When I would have healed H7495	אָפַר אֵם H669	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H7451	לִישְׁרָאֵל H8111	לִשְׁרָאֵל H3478	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H1540	לִשְׁרָאֵל H3588	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H6466	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H5771	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H8267
of Ephraim H1590	and the wickedness H935	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H1416	שְׁמָר וְנִצְלַת H1416	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H2351	שְׁמָר וְנִצְלַת H1416	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H2351	שְׁמָר וְנִצְלַת H1416	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H2351	שְׁמָר וְנִצְלַת H1416
and the thief H1590	cometh in H935	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H1416	פָּשַׁט H6584	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H1416	בְּחִזְקַת H2351	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H1416	בְּחִזְקַת H2351	וְנִצְלַת הָיָה H1416	בְּחִזְקַת H2351

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 7:13 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

Hosea 6:4 (Parallel theme): O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

Luke 19:42 (Parallel theme): Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Hosea 4:2 (Parallel theme): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

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