

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

כִּכְפֹּאִי	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	וְנִגְלָה	עוֹן		
When I would have healed	Israel	was discovered	then the iniquity		
H7495	H3478	H1540	H5771		
אֶפְרַיִם	וְכַעֲוֹת	שְׁמֶרֶן	כִּי	פָּעִלּוּ	שֶׁקֶר
of Ephraim	and the wickedness	of Samaria	H3588	for they commit	falsehood
H669	H7451	H8111		H6466	H8267
וְגַנָּב	יָבֹא	פֶּשַׁע	גֹּד	בְּחוּץ:	
and the thief	cometh in	of robbers spoileth	and the troop	without	
H1590	H935	H6584	H1416	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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