

Hosea 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.

Analysis

False profession: 'Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.' Despite crying יְהוָה (Elohai, My God), claiming יָדָעָנוּךָ (yeda'anukha, we know You), actions contradict profession. This describes false assurance—religious language without transformed life. Jesus warns: 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord' (Matthew 7:21). Profession must match practice; faith without works is dead (James 2:17). True knowledge of God transforms behavior (1 John 2:3-4: 'Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments'). Only Spirit-given faith produces genuine profession (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Historical Context

Israel maintained religious vocabulary and forms while violating covenant substance. They invoked YHWH's name, brought sacrifices, observed festivals—yet worshiped Baal, practiced injustice, pursued foreign alliances. This disconnect between confession and conduct characterized northern kingdom throughout its existence. Jesus confronted similar hypocrisy in Pharisees (Matthew 23). The cry 'My God, we know You' likely represents Israel's appeals during Assyrian crisis—desperate invocation without prior faithfulness. Church history parallels: cultural Christianity professing faith while living in practical atheism. Profession without life-transformation reveals false faith.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can profession ('My God, we know thee') exist alongside life contradicting that profession, and what does this reveal?
2. What evidences demonstrate genuine knowledge of God versus mere religious language?

Interlinear Text

י	לֵךְ	קוֹלִי	אֵלֵי	יָדַעְנוּ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:
H0	shall cry	unto me	My God	we know	Israel
	H2199		H430	H3045	H3478

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 7:21 (Parallel theme): Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Titus 1:16 (References God): They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.