

Hosea 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

Analysis

Wanderers among nations: 'My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.' The consequence of not hearkening (לֹא שָׁמַע, lo shame'u) to God: מֵאָס (ma'as, rejected/cast away), becoming נָדִים (nodedim, wanderers) among nations. This curse echoes Cain (Genesis 4:12,14: תֵּעַתֵּד, na vanad, fugitive and vagabond). Covenant blessing is settled rest in promised land; curse is endless wandering. Only Christ gives rest (Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 4:9-11).

Historical Context

The prophecy fulfilled literally: northern tribes deported to Media, Assyria, and beyond (2 Kings 17:6), disappearing from history as 'ten lost tribes.' Unlike Judah's Babylonian exile (which ended with return under Ezra/Nehemiah), northern Israel never returned—permanently scattered, assimilated among nations. The 'wanderers' became historical reality: Jewish diaspora scattering worldwide, beginning with northern kingdom's exile. Archaeological silence regarding northern tribes post-exile confirms this. This demonstrated that covenant violation results in losing covenant land—from secure possession to endless wandering. New Testament applies 'wanderers' spiritually (Hebrews 11:13, 1 Peter 2:11), but emphasizes Christ secures eternal homeland.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does being 'cast away' and becoming 'wanderers among nations' represent reversal of covenant promises?
2. What does Christ's promise of eternal rest teach about the gospel ending the curse of spiritual wandering?

Interlinear Text

וְיִמְאַס ס	כִּי אֱלֹהִים	לְאַנְתֶּם	שְׁמַע אַתֶּם	לִזְעַם
will cast them away	My God	H3588	H3808	because they did not hearken
H3988	H430		H8085	H0
וְיִרְאִי אָתָּה יְהֹוָה	וְיָמַר אָתָּה יְהֹוָה	בְּגִיאָה:		
H1961	unto him and they shall be wanderers	among the nations	H1471	
	H5074			

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.

Isaiah 48:18 (Parallel theme): O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Acts 3:23 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Zechariah 1:4 (Parallel theme): Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

Micah 7:7 (References God): Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Amos 9:9 (Parallel theme): For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

Hosea 4:10 (Parallel theme): For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

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