

Romans 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.

Analysis

As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved—Paul quotes Hosea 2:23 (LXX). Kalesō...ou laon mou laon mou (καλέσω...οὐ λαόν μου λαόν μου): 'I will call...not-my-people my-people.' Hosea prophesied to apostate northern Israel (8th century BC), promising restoration: those disowned would be reclaimed. Paul applies it to Gentiles—those never in covenant now called 'beloved' (ēgapēmenēn, ἡγαπημένην).

This is typological interpretation: Hosea's immediate reference was ethnic Israel's restoration, but Paul sees the principle of gracious calling extending to Gentiles. God calls things that are not as though they were (4:17). Those 'far off' are brought near (Ephesians 2:13). The not-beloved becoming beloved illustrates sovereign grace—no prior relationship or merit, only God's free choice to love. This is election's essence: God setting covenant love on the undeserving.

Historical Context

Hosea married Gomer the adulteress to symbolize Israel's spiritual adultery. Yet God promised to remarry faithless Israel (Hosea 2:14-23). Paul sees this covenant restoration language fulfilled in Gentile calling—grafting wild branches into the olive tree (11:17-24). God's mercy transcends ethnic boundaries.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does calling 'not my people' to be 'my people' illustrate the sheer grace of election?
2. What does Hosea's marriage to Gomer teach about God's covenant love despite unfaithfulness?
3. How does Paul's application of Hosea to Gentiles demonstrate the unity of God's people across testaments?

Interlinear Text

ἀς	καὶ	ἐν	τῷ	Ὥσηὲ	λέγει	Καλέσω	τὸν	οὐκ
G5613	also	in	G3588	Osee	As he saith	I will call	G3588	which was not
G2532	G1722			G5617		G3004	G2564	G3756
λαόν	μου	λαόν	μου	καὶ	τὴν	οὐκ	ἡγαπημένην.	
people	my	people	my	also	G3588	which was not	beloved	
G2992	G3450	G2992	G3450	G2532		G3756	G25	
ἡγαπημένην.								
	beloved							
	G25							

ἡγαπημένην.
beloved
G25

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

1 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Ezekiel 16:8 (Love): Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

Romans 1:7 (Love): To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 16:27 (Love): For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

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