

Romans 9:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God —Paul continues quoting Hosea (1:10 LXX). The dramatic reversal: οὐ λαός μου (οὐ λαός μου, 'not my people') becomes οἱοι τοῦ ζῶντος (οἱοι τοῦ ζῶντος, 'sons of the living God'). Not merely people, but sons—adoption into intimate familial relationship. The phrase 'living God' contrasts with dead idols Gentiles formerly served.

The 'place where' suggests Gentile lands—formerly pagan territory becomes the site of covenant sonship. This fulfills Abraham's promise: all nations blessed (Genesis 12:3). The transformation from 'not beloved' to 'sons' is regeneration and adoption—wrought by sovereign grace through the Spirit. Those 'by nature children of wrath' (Ephesians 2:3) become 'sons of God' through faith in Christ (Galatians 3:26). Election accomplishes this impossible transition.

Historical Context

Hosea 1:10 prophesied northern Israel's restoration. Paul sees typological fulfillment in Gentile conversion—a greater restoration. The early church was predominantly Gentile by Paul's day, vindicating this prophetic interpretation. God's people now transcend ethnicity, united in Christ.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the progression from 'not my people' to 'sons of the living God' illustrate regeneration and adoption?
2. What does 'living God' emphasize in contrast to the idols Gentiles formerly served?
3. How does this verse assure Gentile believers of their full inclusion in God's covenant people?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔσται	ἐν	τῷ	τόπῳ	οὗ	ἐρρήθη	αὐτοῖς
And	it shall come to pass	that in	G3588	the place	G3739	it was said	unto them
G2532	G2071	G1722		G5117		G4483	G846

Οὐ	λαός	μου	ὑμεῖς	ἐκεῖ	κληθήσονται	νἱοὶ	θεοῦ
are not	people	my	Ye	there	shall they be called	the children	God
G3756	G2992	G3450	G5210	G1563	G2564	G5207	G2316

ζῶντος

of the living

G2198

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:6 (Parallel theme): I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

Romans 8:16 (References God): The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

2 Corinthians 6:18 (Parallel theme): And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Galatians 3:26 (References God): For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

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