

v.25. Now Paul begins the third stage of his answer to the objection that to think of God as having absolute liberty to elect whomsoever He chooses, without regard to human merit, would make God out to be unrighteous. He has presented, first, the argument of the divine declaration--God explicitly claims this power (v.15-18), second, the answer of philosophy--in view of the supreme position of God as Creator, and of the benevolent purposes with which He exercises His sovereignty, who art thou to object to that sovereignty (v.19-24)? Now he presents, third, the answer of the fact--not only has God declared this great principle, He has gone further, and expressly announced that He will apply it, calling many from among the Gentiles, and rejecting many of the Jews. (v.25-29). This is very offensive to the Jewish objector, who felt that God was bound to save all the Jews and destroy the rest of humanity, and is galling to the pride of men everywhere, who like to consider God as bound to favor them, on account of some supposed racial or national or personal merit. ὡς καὶ This phrase connects this beginning of a new section of the argument directly with the preceding verse οὓς καὶ ἐκάλεσεν...καὶ ἐξ ἔθνων. ἐν τῷ Ὡσηέ equivalent to "in the writings of Hosea". λέγει The same common form of introducing a divine quotation as was used in v.15; equivalent to Θεὸς λέγει. The quotation is from Hosea 2:23. The LXX rendering is slightly altered in Paul's quotation, but not so as to change the sense. He alters the order of the two clauses. In the first clause (Paul's order), he substitutes καλέσω for ἔρω, and alters the following construction to correspond. καλέσω when used with a double accusative can only mean, "I will name". But there is a reference back to v.24, where it is used in the other