

Class 5:

The Restoration of Israel to God (Hosea 11-14)



HOSEA

Jesus in Hosea

"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."

*- Hosea 11:1 cp.
Matthew 2:15*



Great Expectations



Noted English Congregational scholar Dr. John Pye-Smith (1774-1851) wrote: “That **from the earliest time an expectation prevailed of a great personage to rise at some future period, and to be the Deliverer and Saviour of mankind from their mortal and natural miseries**, is a fact well known to all who have studied primeval history, and is generally received by believers in revelation. This expected benefactor was **the Messiah described in the Hebrew sacred books**; who should unite in his own person the dignities of **prophet, priest, and king**, that he might confer **salvation on our fallen world.**”

John Pye-Smith, *The Scripture Testimony to the Messiah: An Inquiry With a View to a Satisfactory Determination of the Doctrine Taught in the Holy Scriptures Concerning the Person of Christ* (London: Jackson and Walford, 1837), Vol. 1, p. 203.

Birth of a Great Savior



“But you, O **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel**, whose coming forth is from of old”

- Micah 5:2

“For to us **a child is born**, to us a son is given; and the **government shall be upon his shoulder**, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

- Isaiah 9:6

“But **Ahaz** said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’ **And he said, ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?’**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a son**, and shall call his name Immanuel”

- Isaiah 7:12-14

Hosea Citations in the New Testament

	Book of Hosea Citation	New Testament Verse Quoting Hosea
1	“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son” (Hosea 11:1)	“and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son’” (Matthew 2:15)
2	“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings” (Hosea 6:6)	“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matthew 9:13)
3	“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings” (Hosea 6:6)	“And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless” (Matthew 12:7)

Hosea Citations in the New Testament

	Book of Hosea Citation	New Testament Verse Quoting Hosea
4	“The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, ‘Cover us,’ and to the hills, ‘Fall on us.’” (Hosea 10:8)	“Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’” (Luke 23:30)
5	“The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, ‘Cover us,’ and to the hills, ‘Fall on us.’” (Hosea 10:8)	“calling to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”” (Revelation 6:16-17)

Hosea Citations in the New Testament

	Book of Hosea Citation	New Testament Verse Quoting Hosea
6	“and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and they shall say, ‘You are my God.’” (Hosea 2:23)	“As indeed he says in Hosea, ‘Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” (Romans 9:25)
7	“I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Repentance is hidden from my eyes” (Hosea 13:14)	“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)
8	“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ it shall be said to them, ‘Children of the living God.’” (Hosea 1:10)	“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:10)



A Loving Father

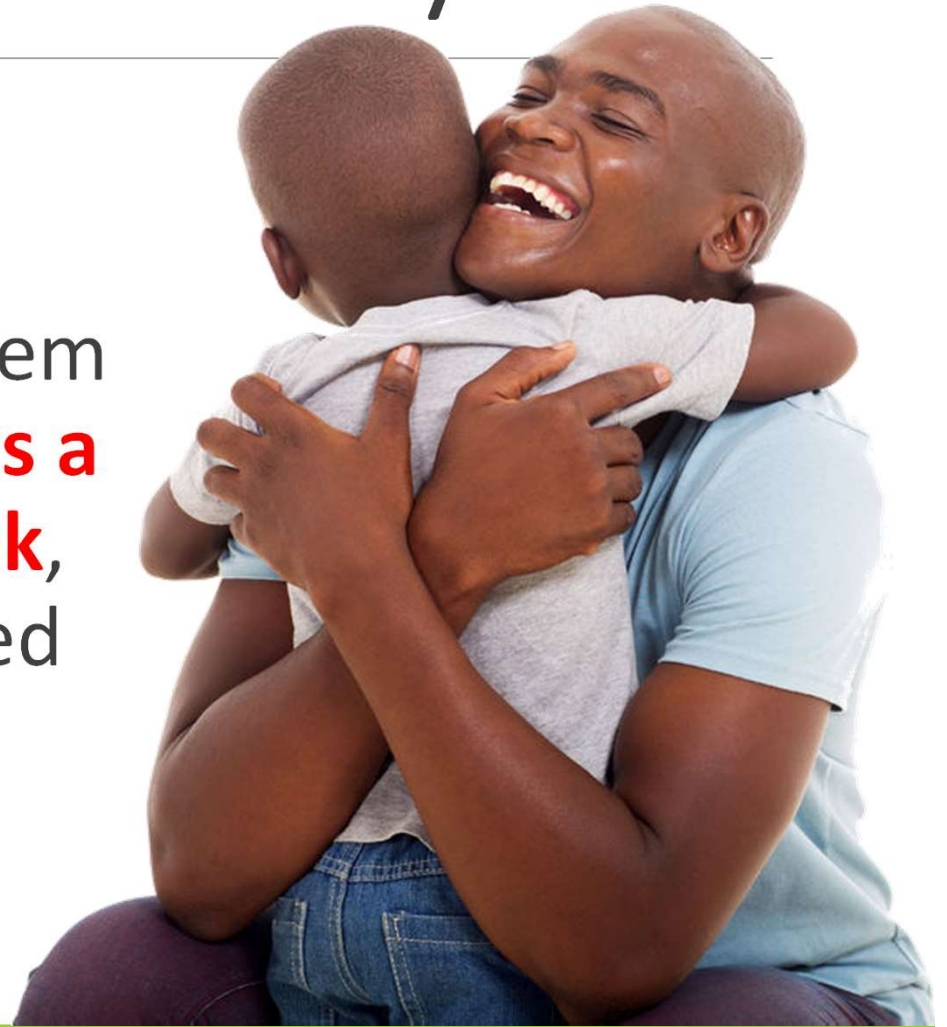
- ¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.**
- ³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up by their arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.**
- ⁴ I led them with cords of kindness,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one who eases
the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to
them and fed them."**

Hosea 11: 1, 3-4

The Love of Our Heavenly Father

“I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them **I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek,** and I bent down to feed them.”

- Hosea 11:4 (NIV)



Divine Call Ignored

“The more I called out to them, the farther they fled from me; they sacrificed to Baals, burning incense to carved images.”

- Hosea 11:2 (ISV)



“I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; **because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear:** but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.”

- Isaiah 66:4

Israel: Unrepentant, Unresponsive

“**Will they not return to Egypt** and will not Assyria rule over them **because they refuse to repent?**”

- Hosea 11:5 (NIV)



Hosea 11:7

Apostasy of Israel



The Hebrew word for **apostasy** is *měšûbâ* which is derived from the root *šwb* which means “turning” or “turning one” and “backsliding” or “treacherously turning” as used in Hosea 11:7

“Return [*šûb*] faithless children, I will heal [*rāpā*] your apostasies [*měšûbōtékem*]”

- Jeremiah 3:22

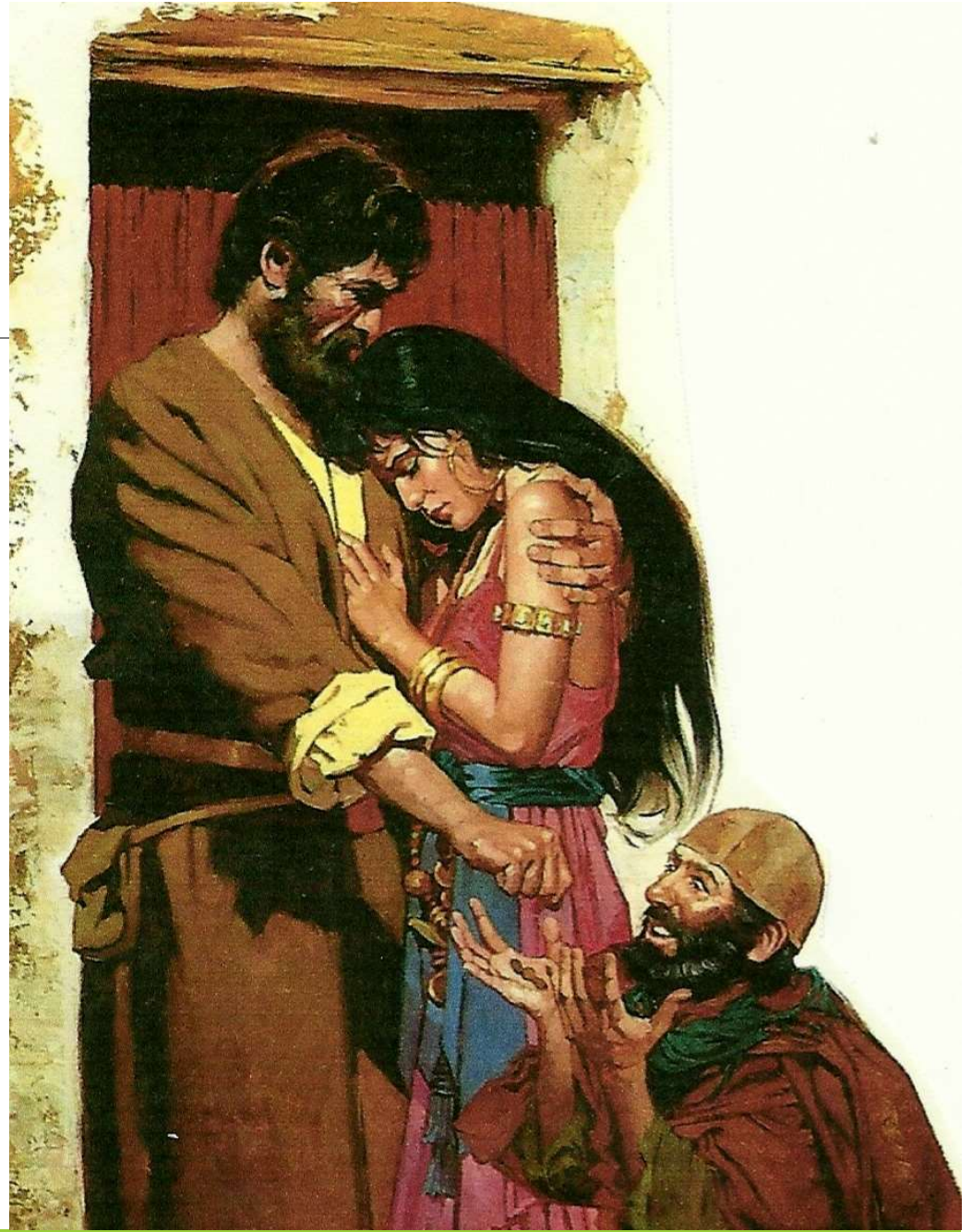
“**And my people are bent on backsliding from me:** though they call them to him that is on high, **none at all will exalt him**”

- Hosea 11:7 (ASV)

But God Can't Let Israel Go

“Israel, I can't let you go. I can't give you up. How could I possibly destroy you as I did the towns of Admah and Zeboiim? I just can't do it. **My feelings for you are much too strong”**

- Hosea 11:8 (CEV)



God Is Not Indifferent to Our Plight

LOVE
HURTS

“In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.”

- Isaiah 63:9 (NASB)

GOD'S COMPASSION: Comparative Analysis of the 8th Century B.C. Prophets

Prophet	Verse
Amos	"The Lord had pity [relented] upon this: It shall not be, said the Lord." (Amos 7:3)
Hosea	"How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. " (Hosea 11:8)
Micah	" He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:19)
Isaiah	"For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. " (Isaiah 54:7, NASB)

Hosea 11: The Heart of God

“Our prophet presents the Lord as the God of the loving heart. **Someone has well said, ‘He is the first prophet of Grace, Israel’s earliest Evangelist.’ Just as Luke presents the prodigal Son, so Hosea portrays the prodigal wife.”**

Charles Lee Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976), p. 14.



Hosea 11



“Hosea 11 is one of the Bible’s greatest passages on God’s love, forgiveness, and acceptance. No matter how bitterly we disappoint God and no matter how far we have strayed from Him, He still loves us. Once this sinks deep into the heart, it changes the sinner. The Lord, while He feels the human emotions of hurt and anger, chooses to rise above them to show love and compassion. **His love is not weak or just sentimental, but it is rather dependable and strong. It promises to bring healing to the repentant sinner.”**

-Zdravko Stefanovic, *Thus Says the Lord: Messages From the Minor Prophets* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2012), p. 30.

Significance of Hosea 11:8-9

“...gives a convenient summary of the book’s message...**here we penetrate deeper into the heart and mind of God than anywhere else in the Old Testament.**”



H.D. Beeby, *Grace Abounding: A Commentary on the Book of Hosea* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989), p. 140.

Hosea 11: 8-9

Divine Love Has the Last Word

“What is highlighted is the struggle within Yahweh, **a struggle between the sense of justice and love.**”

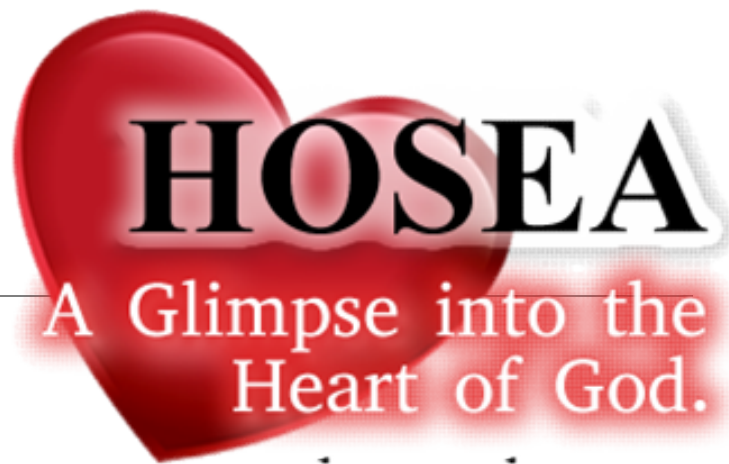
Joy Philip Kakkanattu, *God's Enduring Love in the Book of Hosea: A Synchronic and Diachronic Analysis of Hosea 11, 1-11* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2006), p. 81.

While the wickedness of these cities caused them to be “overthrown” (Heb. *hāpak*, Gen. 19:21, 25), now it is God's caring heart that is “overthrown” (Heb. *hāpak*, Hosea 11:8b)!

“...My **heart is turned over** [*hāpak*] **within Me**, all My compassions are kindled”

- Hosea 11:8 (NASB)

Hosea 11: 8-9



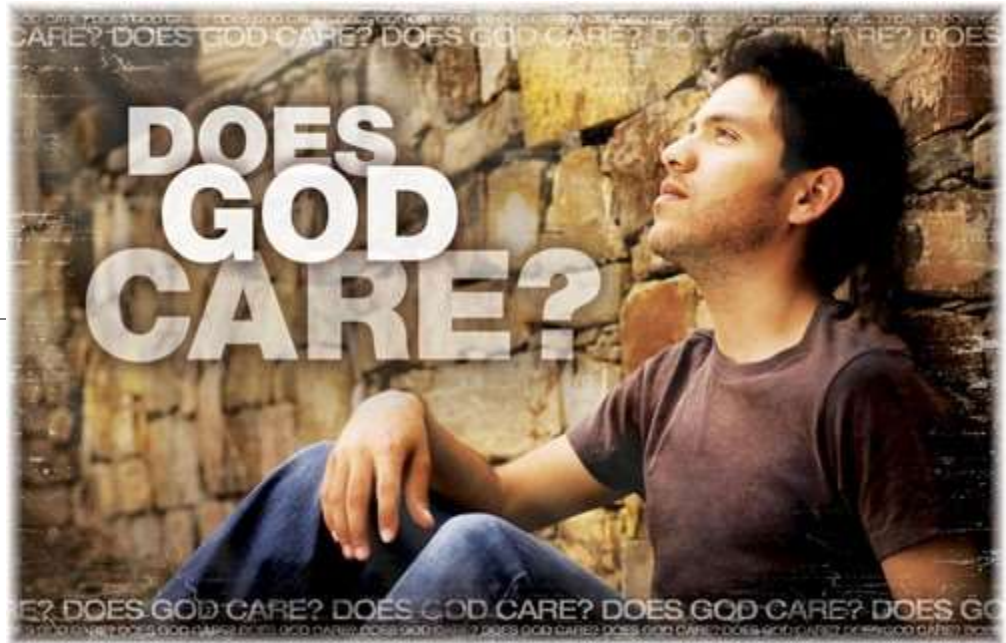
“G. Campbell Morgan paraphrases thus: ‘My compassions are in spasm, deeply affected.’ **We are in the presence here of the perfect love of God** – a love that is not the mere sentimental outgoing of an emotional nature, evanescent and passing; but love that becomes an agony; love that becomes a tragedy.”


Paul T. Butler, *The Minor Prophets: The Prophets of the Decline: Obadiah – Joel – Jonah – Amos – Hosea* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1968/1984), p. 550.

God Cares For You

“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that **He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.**”

- 2 Chronicles 16:9
(NASB)





*For
someday
the people will
follow me.*

*I, the LORD,
will roar like a lion.*

~Hosea 11:10~

The Divine Appeal to You

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

- Jeremiah 33:3



The Verdict and Response to Israel's Deceitfulness

1. Israel's **deceitful politics** (Hosea 11:12-12:1) They turn, but not upward, **they are like a deceitful bow**; Their
2. Israel's **deceitful record** (Hosea 12:2-6) princes will fall by the sword
3. Israel's **deceitful practices** (Hosea 12:7-11) Because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.”
4. God's dealings with **deceitful Israel** (Hosea 12:12-14) - Hosea 7:16 (NASB)
5. Israel's **deceitful pride** (13:1-16) **“Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit**, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One.”
6. Hosea's prophetic advice (14:1-3)
7. Yahweh's divine consolation (14:4-8) - Hosea 11:12

Synopsis of the Life of Jacob

“In the womb he **grasped** his brother's heel; as a man he **struggled with God**.

He **struggled with the angel** and **overcame** him; he **wept** and **begged** for his favor. He **found** him at Bethel and **talked** with him there”

- Hosea 12:3-4 (NIV)

“**Yahweh is the God of Hosts;**
Yahweh is His name.”

- Hosea 12:5



Hosea 12:2-14 cp. Genesis 35:2-4: From Jacob to Israel: The Model of True Repentance

“The passage recalls both Jacob’s failures and his readiness to return to God....The narrative from Genesis testifies that in the end he not only survived the encounter with God, but also prevailed. **Thus he became a model of true repentance to all who face their own weaknesses and who hope for something better.** Hosea’s use of the full title ‘the Lord God of hosts’ turns the focus away from idols toward the glory of Israel’s God who is also the God of the whole world.”

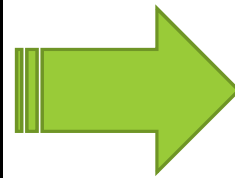
-Zdravko Stefanovic, *Thus Says the Lord: Messages From the Minor Prophets* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2012), p. 30.

Deceiving The Deceiver

“Then the **Rabshakeh** stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: ‘Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!’ **Do not listen to Hezekiah**, for thus says the king of Assyria: ‘**Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree**, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern,

until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, “The Lord will deliver us.”

- 2 Kings 18:28, 31-32



“but **they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid**, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.”

- Micah 4:4

Hosea 12

The Purpose of Punishment

“The punishment is not just vindictive or restrictive; it is designed to reeducate and reform. **A change of heart intended is similar to that of the Prodigal Son in the New Testament.** Suffering brings awareness and regret, if not remorse and penitence.”



H.D. Beeby, *Grace Abounding: A Commentary on the Book of Hosea* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989), p. 25.

“Always Put Your Hope in God”

“**But you must return to your God.**

Maintain **love** and **justice**, and **always put your hope in God.**”

- Hosea 12: 6
(HCSB)



Hosea 12:7: What is Correct Translation?

“The **merchant** [*Kěna`an*] uses dishonest scales and loves to defraud”

- Hosea 12:7 (NIV)

“**Canaan!** in his hand are balances of deceit! To oppress he hath loved”

- Hosea 12:7 (YLT)

Kěna`an is the Hebrew word overwhelmingly used in reference to **Canaan**, the son of Ham, and to the “land of Canaan.”

The root of the word **Canaan** is **kana`** which literally means “to be humble, **be humbled**, **be subdued**, be brought down, **be low**, be under, be brought into subjection.”

The Necessity for Repentance



“The pride of Israel testifies to his face; **yet they do not return to the LORD their God**, nor seek him, for all this.”

- Hosea 7:10

“They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, **because they have refused to return to me**”

- Hosea 11:5

Israel's Lack of Self-Awareness

“¹⁷ Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘**My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.**’ ¹⁸ You shall remember the LORD your God, **for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers,** as it is this day.”

- Deuteronomy 8:17-18

“Ephraim boasts, ‘**I am very rich; I have become wealthy.**’ With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin.”

- Hosea 12:8 (NIV)

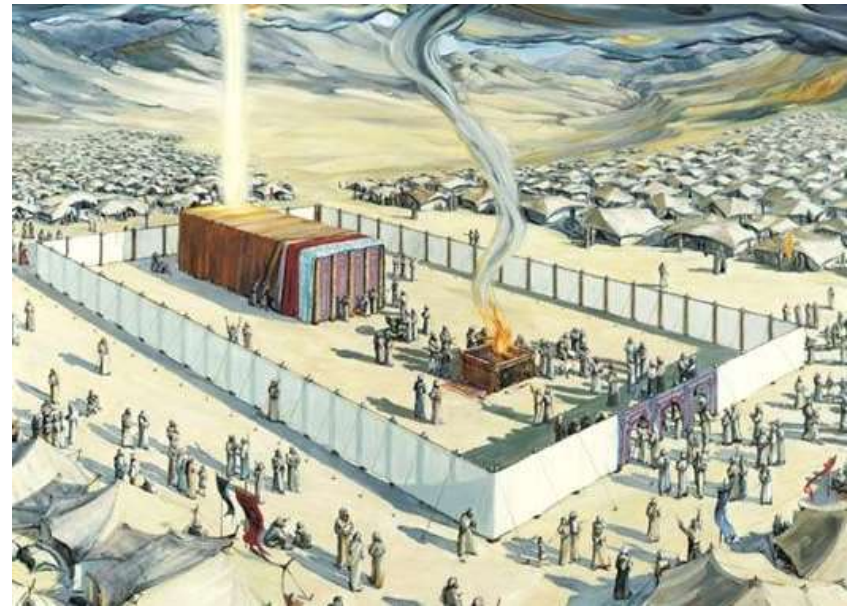
“**For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,** not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”

- Revelation 3:17

God's Invitation to Israel

“I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt; **I will make you live in tents again**, as in the days of your appointed festivals.”

- Hosea 12:9 (NIV)



Viewpoint of Prophets in Samaria

“I spoke to the prophets; it was I who **multiplied visions**, and **through the prophets gave parables.**”

- Hosea 12:10

“The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac. The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, **yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God.**”

- Hosea 9:7 (NIV)

Hosea 13:7-8

The Sadness of These Similes

“The ferocity of the attack of God on his people is again highlighted by the employment of similes from the animal world. **These are, for the most, easily understood and need little comment; the picture of God destroying his people is an extremely vivid and gory one.** If God comes to destroy his people, then there is none to protect them – they are totally helpless against his rapacious and mighty judgment.”

-J.T.E. Renner, *Chi Rho Commentary on Hosea* (Adelaide: Lutheran Publishing House, 1979), p. 87.

Similes in Hosea 13:1-12

“The **above similes are all designed to show how swiftly Israel will vanish from the scene of life.** Swift is the disappearance of mist, dew, chaff, and smoke – they have no enduring worth. To such is Israel is likened.”

-J.T.E. Renner, *Chi Rho Commentary on Hosea* (Adelaide: Lutheran Publishing House, 1979), p. 86.

“Like some other passages in the prophets, this most movingly expresses the travail of the heart of God at the determined apostasy of His people; His reluctance to give them up, and to bring upon the judgment they so richly deserve. **Once more the prophet portrays, in vivid, kaleidoscopic terms, what they were, in contrast with what they might have been.**”

Herbert F. Stevenson, *Three Prophetic Voices: Studies in Joel, Amos and Hosea* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1969), p. 149.

Aftermath of Spiritual Amnesia

“I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat. When I fed them, they were satisfied; **when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.** So I will be like a lion to them, like a leopard I will lurk by the path. **Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open;** like a lion I will devour them -- a wild animal will tear them apart.”

- Hosea 13:5-8



Who Should We Really Fear?

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. **Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell** [gehenna].”

- Matthew 10:28

“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?”

- James 4:12

“We fear men so much, because we fear God so little.”

*William Gurnall

Hosea 13:4-5

God and Israel in the Wilderness

“Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; and you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me. **I cared for you in the wilderness,** In the land of drought”

Hosea 13:4-5 (NASB)

“They spoke against God, saying, **“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”**”

- Psalm 78:19

‘Out of Egypt’

God constantly reminds the Jewish people that, **“I the Lord am your God who brought you out of the Land of Egypt, the house of bondage”** (Exodus 20:2)

This phrase and variants appears about 125 times in the Old Testament.



HOSEA

Resurrection in Hosea

*"I will ransom them
from the power of the
grave; I will redeem
them from death: O death,
I will be thy plagues;
O grave, I will be thy
destruction..."*

- Hosea 13:14



Hosea 13:14: The Hope of Israel: Resurrection of the Dead

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? “I will have no compassion”

- Hosea 13:14 (NIV)

“And he said to me, **‘Son of man, can these bones live?’** And I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’”

- Ezekiel 37:3

“For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, **what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?”**

- Romans 11:15

O DEATH,
WHERE IS THY STING?
O GRAVE,
WHERE IS THY VICTORY?

[1 CORINTHIANS 15:55]

HE IS RISEN!

Hosea 13:14

Positive Assertion or Negative Question?

"**I will** ransom them from the **power of the grave**; **I will** redeem them from **death**:
O death, **I will** be thy plagues; **O grave**, **I will** be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes."

- Hosea 13:14 (KJV)

"**Shall I** ransom them from the power of Sheol? **Shall I** redeem them from death? O Death, **where** are your thorns? O Sheol, **where** is your sting?
Compassion will be hidden from My sight."

- Hosea 13:14 (NASB)

Hosea 13:16: Assyrian and Babylonian Invasions

"Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; **their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open**"

- Hosea 13:16



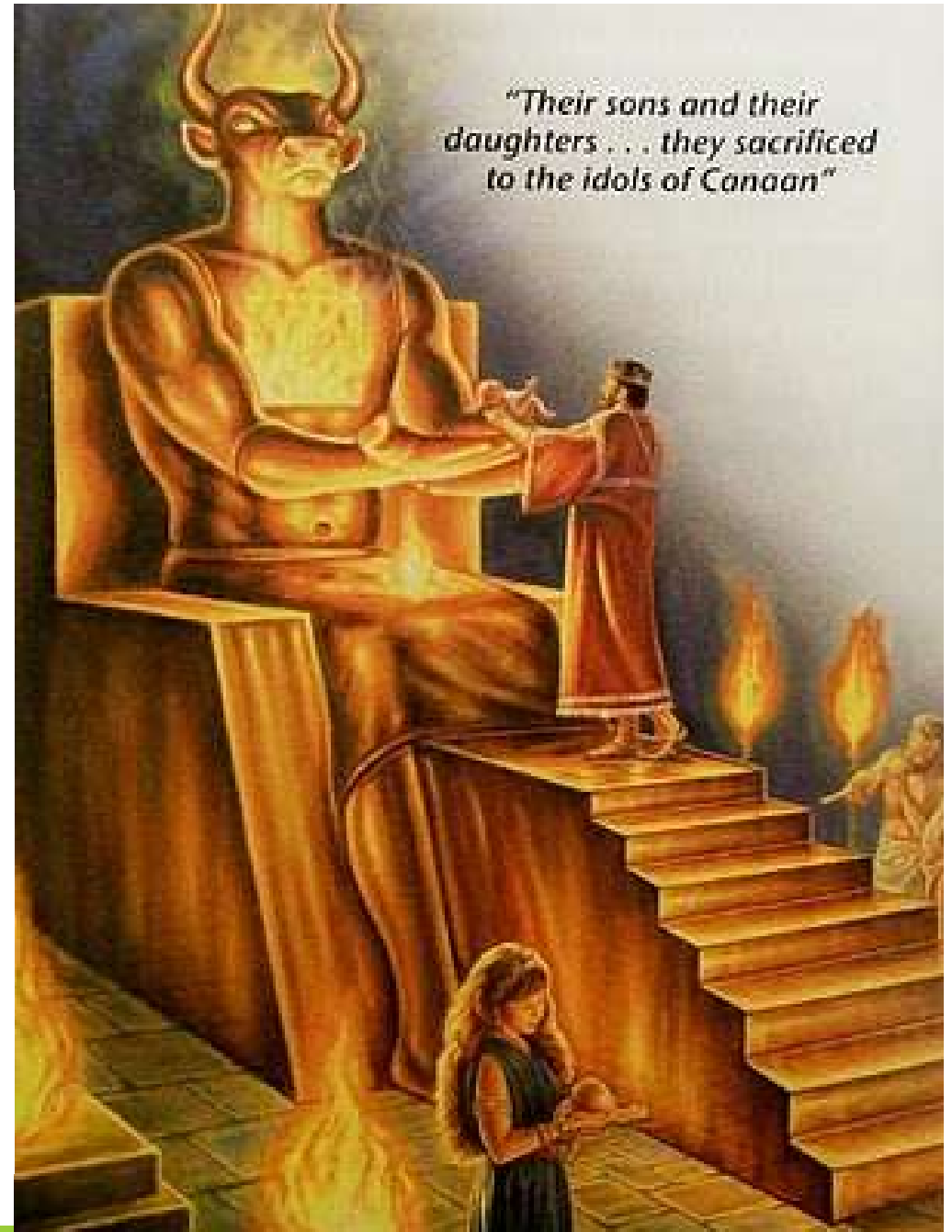
"Their infants will be dashed in pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished."

- Isaiah 13:16

King Ahaz of Judah (732 - 716 B.C.)

“Ahaz [who reigned between 732-716 B.C.] **even made metal images for the Baals, and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering,** according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

- 2 Chronicles 28:1-3



Valley of Hinnom: Gehenna

“And they have built the high places of **Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom** [Gehenna], **to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire**, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind”

- Jeremiah 7:31



Hosea and Gomer: Types of the Lord Jesus Christ and Us

Gomer was a “type” of the Gentile bride of the Lord Jesus Christ

- The bride chosen from a sinful people
- **We did not love him first**; he loved us first
- **We did not choose him**; he chose us (John 15:16)
- **We did not deserve his love and mercy**
- Like Gomer, we each only taste of grace when we become wearied and tired of sin



Hosea 14

After Hosea...

*the gospel
according to*
HOSEA



“But our Bible does not end in Hosea. The name Hosea meant salvation...There came One in the fulness of time...we find out at last in Jesus, how God can be just, and the Justifier of the sinning soul....Through Christ He has made the way by which sinning souls can be conformed to His image, His likeness, His will. **The Gospel is gleaming in Hosea. It is shining in full radiance in Christ.**”

Paul T. Butler, *The Minor Prophets: The Prophets of the Decline: Obadiah – Joel – Jonah – Amos – Hosea* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1968/1984), p. 551.

Hosea 14:1-2

“It’s Not Too Late”

“**Return, Israel, to the LORD your God.** Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: “**Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously,** that we may offer the fruit of our lips.”

- Hosea 14:1-2



FORGIVENESS: Comparative Analysis of the 8th Century B.C. Prophets

Prophet	Verse
Amos	“When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said, ‘ O Lord GOD, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!’” (Amos 7:2)
Hosea	“Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: ‘ Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.’” (Hosea 14:2, NIV)
Micah	“ Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.” (Micah 7:18, NIV)
Isaiah	“The people of Israel will no longer say, ‘ We are sick and helpless, ’ for the LORD will forgive their sins.” (Isaiah 33:24, NLT) “Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will freely forgive. ” (Isaiah 55:7, HCSB)

Always a Faithful Remnant

“Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, **but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One.**”

- Hosea 11:12

“Yet you have still a **few names** in Sardis, **people who have not soiled their garments,** and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.”

- Revelation 3:4

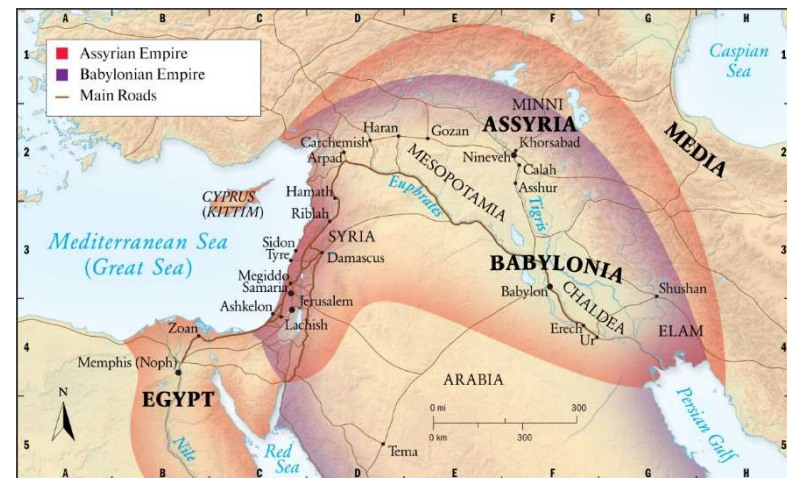
Hosea 14:3: “Assyria Shall Not Save Us”

“**Assyria shall not save us**; we will not ride on horses; and **we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands**. In you the orphan finds mercy.”

- Hosea 14:3

“Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, **calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.**”

- Hosea 7:11



Love You Without Limit

“Israel, you have rejected me, but my anger is gone; I will heal you and **love you without limit.**”

- Hosea 14:4 (CEV)

“I will heal their faithlessness; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.”

- Hosea 14:4 (RSV)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **even when we were dead in our trespasses,** made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved”

- Ephesians 2:4-5



Hosea 14:8: God's Perspective

“Ephraim [shall say]:
'What have I to do any
more with idols?' **As for
Me, I respond and look
on him**; I am like a leafy
cypress-tree; From Me is
thy fruit found”

- Hosea 14:8
(JPS Tanakh 1917)



I am like a
green pine tree;
your fruitfulness
comes from me.
Hosea 14:8

Hosea 14:8-9

Forgiving Parent and Wounded Lover: Ready to Restore

“Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? **I will answer him and care for him.** I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me. Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. **The ways of the LORD are right;** the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.”

- Hosea 14:8-9 (NIV)



Deepest Consolation of this Life

“...Hosea yet believed that God is a God of love, that mercy shall somehow or somewhere triumph over justice, that God will smite sin, and yet will spare. Hosea's was a real and not a sham message, and it was a message full of comfort; and still more full of comfort was the reason, ‘for I am God, and not man.’ **The deepest consolation of life lies in this, God and not man is the judge. God is the Father of the prodigal.**”

Frederic William Farrar
(1831-1903), Dean of Canterbury

“Then David said to Gad, ‘I am in great distress. **Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great;** but let me not fall into the hand of man.’”

- 2 Samuel 24:14

All the Prophets, Including Hosea, Typified Jesus

“He was despised and rejected by men, **a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief**; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

- Isaiah 53:3

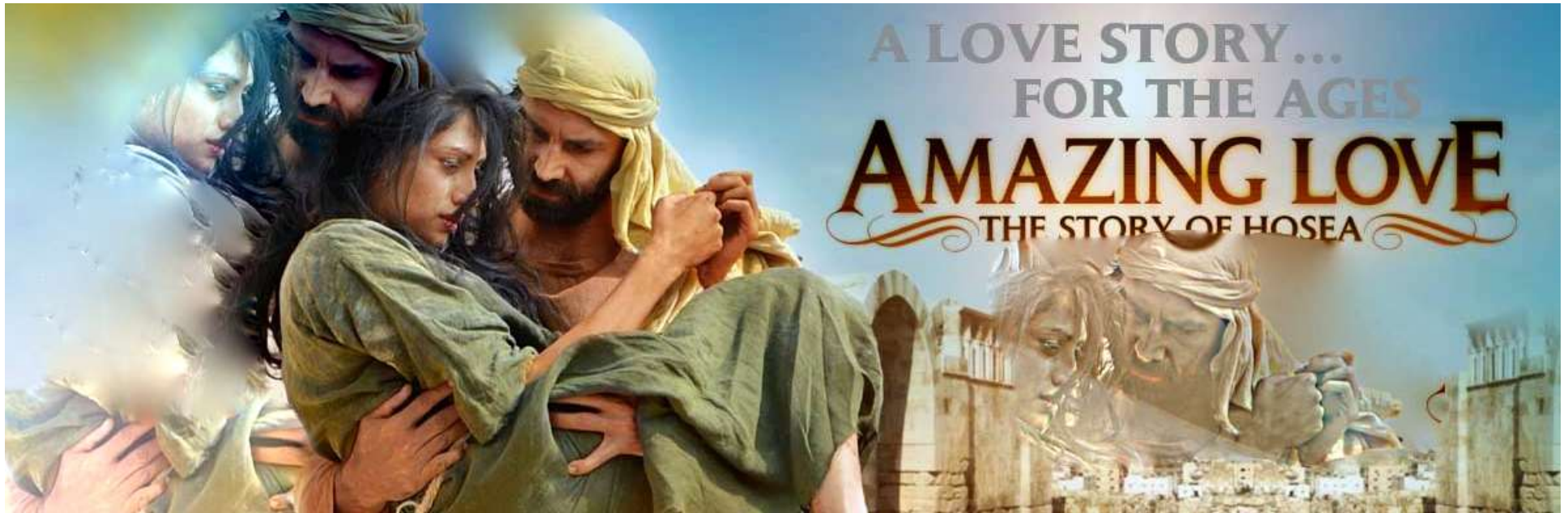


In Conclusion: Hosea Brings Us Closer to Christ

“In lesser measure Hosea did what the Lord Jesus did for all men perfectly, made his personal sorrows and agonies a redeeming power for human life....

In coming near to Hosea, we come very near to Christ.”

William Pierson Merrill, *Prophets of the Dawn: Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah: The Beginnings of the Religion of the Spirit* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1927), pp. 90-91.



Class 1: Marriages of Hosea and Yahweh to Unfaithful Spouses (Hosea 1-3)

Class 2: Spiritual and Physical Adultery of Israel (Hosea 4-5)

Class 3: Refusal of Israel to Repent of Her Adultery (Hosea 6-7)

Class 4: Judgment of Israel by God (Hosea 8-10)

Class 5: Restoration of Israel to God (Hosea 11-14)

THE BOOK OF HOSEA: AN AMAZING LOVE STORY

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Unless otherwise noted, all verses cited from the English Standard Version (ESV)