



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

...a verse by verse study

Hosea

- Hosea's call & The rejection of Israel 1:1–9
- The restoration of Israel promised 1:10–2:1
- God's warning against Israel's unfaithfulness and judgment prophesied 2:2–13
- A future of blessing foretold for Israel 2:14–23
- The redemption of Hosea's wife a type of Israel's ultimate return to God Ch 3
- God's controversy with his people Ch 4–10
- In wrath, God remembers mercy Ch 11–13
- Israel urged to repent & enjoy blessing Ch 14

Hosea: Lessons To Remember

1. Nothing is able to quench God's love for us
2. God suffers intense sorrow when men desert him:
3. The sacredness and sanctity of marriage typify our relationship with Jehovah.
4. The consequences of following unworthy teachers are tragic.
5. There can be no "double standard" of morals in God's kingdom.
6. A nation declines rapidly when its leaders become corrupt:
7. Internal corruption in a nation is more dangerous to its existence than foreign enemies.
8. The greatest sin is that against true love.

Hosea: Lessons To Remember

9. There is a real danger of becoming like those we associate with (I Cor. 15:33).
10. The root from which all sins spring is unfaithfulness to God.
11. Genuine repentance will bring forgiveness and full restoration to God's favor.
12. There is beauty in forgiving those who sin against us (Matt. 6:12-14).
13. The crushing blows of life can drive us to the arms of God.
14. "Who is he that he may understand these things? prudent that he may know them? for the ways of Jehovah are right, and the just shall walk in them; but the transgressors shall fall therein:" (Hosea 14:9).
15. Our goodness must be more permanent than the morning cloud -- fog and early dew (6:4).

Hosea: Lessons To Remember

16. May we not be half-baked Christians -- burned on one side, mushy on top -- and therefore useless (7:8).

17. All "these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Cor. 10:11).

18. God still prefers goodness to heartless sacrifice (6:6):

19. May we, like Hosea, be a living demonstration of our message:

20. Corruption in politics is bad, but in religion it is inexcusable.

21. God is not willing that any should perish, especially his children (II Pet. 3:9).

22. "It appears to be a universal law of this sin-stricken world that God makes perfect through suffering, that redemption is wrought through sacrifice."

Chapter 13



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Relentless Judgment on Israel

¹ When Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died.

Hosea 13:1

- Ephraim once spoke and the other tribes trembled, such was his influence
- Thus he became the prominent tribe of the Northern Kingdom
- But when he fell into idolatry he lost everything
 - And it is about to get even worse!
 - Death is the penalty for Sin

² And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

Hosea 13:2

- Not only had they falling into sin, they were dragging others down with them
- Yet that which they worshiped was merely the work of their hands

³ Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

Hosea 13:3

- *Which, however promising it is, soon disappears when the sun is risen; signifying that the idolatrous Israelites, king, priests, and people, should be no more; their kingdom would cease, all their riches and wealth would depart from them, and they and their children be carried captive into a strange land – John Gill*

4 Yet I am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.

Hosea 13:4

- God reminds them that He is still the I AM who delivered them from Egypt!

7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,'

8 but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

⁵ I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

⁶ According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

Hosea 13:5-6

- In their times of trouble they walked with & had a relationship with God
- God gave them everything they needed
- Yet they then used the blessings to indulge in idolatry and immorality & forget God

7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them:

8 I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

Hosea 13:7-8

- Israel's enemies were ready to pounce

9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

10 I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.

Hosea 13:9-11

- v9 is the summary of all who indulge in sin

12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.

Hosea 13:12-

- We think our sin has gone unnoticed...
- ... so we carry on thinking we can get away with it!
- Yet God requires an account of that which is past
 - Ecclesiastes 3:15
- There are two options:
 - We must pay for our sin (every thought, word, deed)
 - Or Jesus pays for it
 - Either way there is a cost and associated punishment

13 The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; for he should not stay long in the place of the breaking forth of children.

Hosea 13:13

- *As there is a critical time in parturition in which the mother in hard labour may by skilful assistants be eased of her burden, which, if neglected, may endanger the life both of parent and child, so there was a time in which Ephraim might have returned to God, but they would not; therefore they are now in danger of being finally destroyed*

— Adam Clarke

14 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

The Greatest Victory!

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:53-55

14 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

- The Hebrews implies a negative:
 - Will I ransom them? Will I redeem them?
- The 'I will' are inserted by the translators
- The context here is in the midst of the most severe denunciations to be found in the whole Bible

Hosea 13:14

- The Lord asked rhetorically if He would buy the Israelites back out of death's hand. Would He pay a price for their redemption?
- No, compassion would be hidden from His sight; He would have no pity on them. He appealed for death (like a thorn bush) to torment the Israelites, as though thorns tore their flesh. He called on the grave (as a hornet) to sting them fatally.
- Later in history God did provide a ransom for His people from the power of the grave, and He redeemed them from death.
- He did this when Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again. God's future redemptive work for His people meant that death would not be the end for Israel even though judgment in the near future was inevitable.

Hosea 13:14

- The Apostle Paul quoted the famous couplet in this verse in 1 Corinthians 15:55 and applied it to the effect of Christ's redemption on all of God's people.
- Death and the grave are not the final judgment and home of the believer because God did provide a ransom and redeemed His people. God has a glorious future beyond His punishment for sin for His own, both for national Israel and for Christians.
- Paul's use of this passage does not support the view that the church fulfills God's promises concerning Israel. Here in Hosea the promise is that Israel would indeed suffer death and the grave, not that she would escape it. Paul turned the passage around and showed that Jesus Christ's resurrection overcame the judgment and death that are inevitable for sinners. - Dr. Thomas Constable

¹⁵ Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

Hosea 13:15

- The east wind no doubt being Assyria
- The east wind brought a dry and arid heat that resulted in destruction to crops and livestock

16 Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

Hosea 13:16

- Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom
- It did indeed become desolate
- King after king had forsaken God and served Baal

Israel's Tragic Demise

- Yahweh would hold Samaria, a metonymy for Israel, guilty for rebelling against Him, her covenant lord and God (cf. Hosea 7:13; Hosea 8:1).
- Israel's soldiers would die in battle (cf. Leviticus 26:25), her children would suffer unmerciful executions (cf. Deuteronomy 28:52-57; Deuteronomy 32:25), and the Assyrians would even cut open her pregnant women with their swords (cf. 2 Kings 15:16; Amos 1:13).
- This gruesome form of execution killed both the mother and the unborn child making it impossible for the coming generation eventually to rise up and rebel against the conqueror.
- These were curses that the Lord warned would follow rebellion against the terms of His covenant (cf. Leviticus 26:25; Deuteronomy 28:21; Deuteronomy 32:24-25; Amos 4:10).

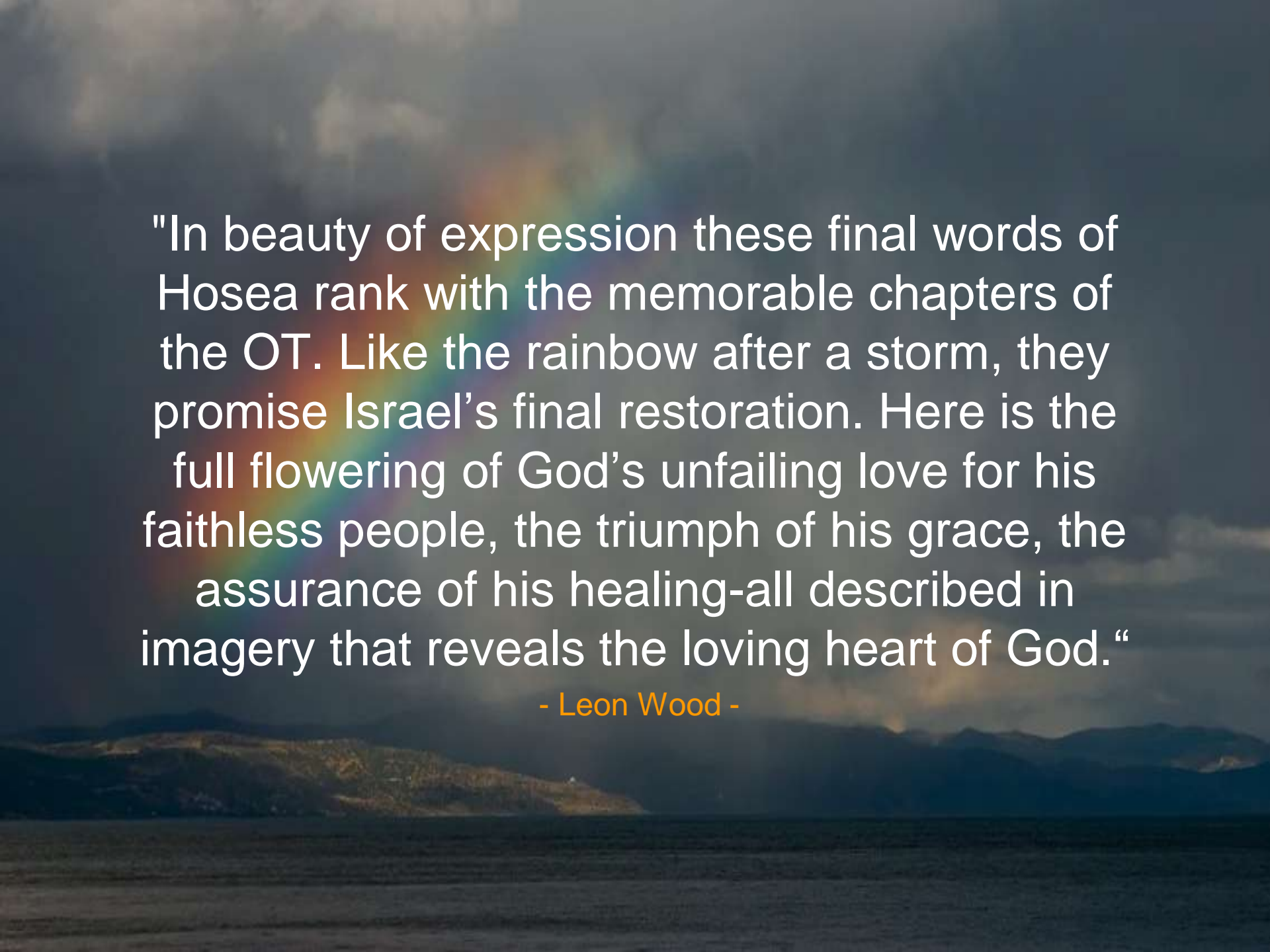
Chapter 14



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

Israel Restored at Last



"In beauty of expression these final words of Hosea rank with the memorable chapters of the OT. Like the rainbow after a storm, they promise Israel's final restoration. Here is the full flowering of God's unfailing love for his faithless people, the triumph of his grace, the assurance of his healing-all described in imagery that reveals the loving heart of God."

- Leon Wood -

¹ O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

Hosea 14:1

- The word 'Return' **bwv** (Shoob) is used 21x in Hosea
- After many days, repentant Israel will finally return to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

Israel's Restoration

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Romans 11:25-27

2 Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Hosea 14:2

- *The material sacrifice, “the bullock,” was offered, consumed, and passed away. Their “lips” were offered, and remained; a perpetual thank-offering, even a “living sacrifice,” living on like the mercies for which they thanked; giving forth their “endless song” for never-ending mercies.*

– Albert Barnes

³ Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

Hosea 14:3

- Lesson learned!
- David said: *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*
- Psalm 20:7

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Hosea 14:4

- ...but remember the cost of Grace is the blood of the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ

⁵ I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

⁶ His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

Hosea 14:5-6

- The Millennial kingdom of Christ will be a time of unparalleled blessing for Israel

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return;
they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the
vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of
Lebanon.

Hosea 14:7

- See Psalm 91

They shall revive as the corn

The justness and beauty of this metaphor is not generally perceived. After the corn has been a short time above the earth, in a single spike, the blades begin to separate, and the stalk to spring out of the centre. The side leaves turn back to make way for the protruding stalk; and fall bending down to the earth, assuming a withered appearance, though still attached to the plant.

They shall revive as the corn

To look at the corn in this state, no one, unacquainted with the circumstance, could entertain any sanguine hope of a copious harvest. In a short time other leaves spring out; the former freshen, and begin to stand erect; and the whole seems to revive from a vegetative death. This is the circumstance to which the prophet refers "they shall revive as the corn."

- Adam Clarke -

The scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon

The grapes of Lebanon have been of the size of plums; its wine has been spoken of as the best in the East or even in the world . Formerly Israel was as a luxuriant, but empty, vine, bringing forth no fruit to God Hosea 10:1. God “looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes” Isaiah 5:2. Now its glory and luxuriance should not hinder its bearing fruit, and “that,” the noblest of its kind. Rich and fragrant is the odor of graces, the inspiration of the Spirit of God, and not fleeting, but abiding.

⁸ Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

Hosea 14:8

- There is the joy and weeping of the Prodigal Son in this verse!
- Ephraim – ‘fruitful’ – will become all that God intended!

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Hosea 14:9

- *He who is well instructed will make a proper application of what he has here read; will tremble at the threatenings, and embrace the promises, of his God.* – Adam Clarke

The Book of Hosea

- The Targum is worthy the most serious attention.
- *"The ways of the Lord are right, and the just who walk in them shall live for ever; but the ungodly, because they have not walked in them, shall be delivered into hell."*
- How instructive, how convincing, how awakening, and yet how consolatory, are the words of this prophecy!
- Reader, lay them to heart. A godly mind cannot consider them in vain; such shall know them, and know that the ways of the Lord are right.



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