

# HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(TRUE REVIVAL)



- ❖ **Illus:** *The Great Awakening* (Jonathan Edwards in 1734, Northampton, MA): Nominalism after 1<sup>st</sup> Settlers ~ “very insensible of the things of religion” → Preached sermons on justification by faith ~ “the Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in” → Influenced George Whitefield and the Wesleys → Spiritual and Political Freedom ~ American Revolution and the “Black Robe Regiment”

## THE SITUATION

### ❖ **Background** (When? Who? Where?):

- National Level: Israel (~755-710 BC) → Prosperity/Power/Privilege (abused!) ~ Godlessness and Neglect of the Law (Torah) ~ International Contact - Alliances - Cosmopolitan - Polytheism - Syncretism - Idolatry - No Central Worship → \*\*Period of Pagan Worship – Cultural Decay – Political Instability (Familiar?) → \*\**Unfaithful* to God’s Covenant
- Personal Level: Prophet Hosea (“Salvation” ~ Joshua, Jesus) → \*\**Unfaithful* Family Relationship

### ❖ **Purpose** (Why?): To pronounce (in “cycles”) the:

1) Imminent curses and **judgment** on God’s people (Israel) because they have disregarded (broken) His covenant (~ SIN of the *faithless* “mother and children”)

2) Future blessings and salvation of the LORD’s people because of His covenant **love** for them (~ GRACE of the *Faithful* Father)

#### ▪ **Important Themes:**

- Mosaic Covenant ~ Blessings and Curses (20 of 27 mentioned!)
- Marriage Analogy ~ Exclusive Relationship! (Experiencing Betrayal and Passion in Love)
- Redemption ~ “2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus”

### ❖ **Outline** (How?—Cycles ~ Important!)

- Introduction/Superscription **Hosea 1:1**
- Personal: Wife (-) and Husband (+) **Hosea 1:2-3:5**
- National: Israel (-) and LORD (+) **Hosea 4:1-14:8**
- Wisdom Epilogue **Hosea 14:9**

### ❖ **Context** (So Far...):

- *Family Problems* (**Hosea 1:2-2:1**) → Hosea’s family problems are a picture of God’s relationship with Israel ~ **Big Idea:** Sin brings deserved judgment, but God’s grace brings hope and restoration.
- *Confronting Unfaithfulness* (**Hosea 2:2-23**) → Spiritual adultery has consequences and requires judgment/discipline that leads to restoration ~ **Big Idea:** Unfaithfulness demands judgment and discipline, but love provides restoration.
- *Restoration* (**Hosea 3:1-5**) → God’s love forgives, redeems, and is forever ~ **Big Idea:** Love restores broken relationships.
- *Results of Rejecting Knowledge* (**Hosea 4:1-19**) → Lack of knowing God is exacerbated by apostate priests and leads to debauched worship and its consequences ~ **Big Idea:** When we reject a knowledge of God, it has catastrophic consequences on our lives.
- *Decay and Conflict* (**Hosea 5:1-14**) → The decay of bad leadership/decisions brings immorality and human-based solutions ~ **Big Idea:** Cultural and spiritual decay bring conflict and judgment.

❖ **Text:** **Hosea 5:15-6:6** (OT) **Isaiah 1:11-20** and **Amos 5:21-24** (CtW) **Isaiah 55:6-7**

❖ **Big Idea:** True revival is the result of a proper response to God.

## THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

### ❖ **True Revival** (**Hosea 5:15-6:6**)

#### ➤ **Positive Aspects: Our Repentance and God’s Response** (**5:15-6:3**)

##### ▪ **Transition** (verse 15):

- Context: Looking to Assyria won’t save Israel (Ephraim) from God’s judgment (~ lion and its lair)
- God *returns* to His “lair” to wait for: 1) Recognition of Sin 2) Return to God

▪ “Rending” to healing → Quick Response (~ “3<sup>rd</sup> day”) for the restoration of Israel → Pursue the knowledge of the LORD → Certain response ~ like seasons (refreshing rain) and light after darkness (cf. **Hosea 5:7**)

#### ➤ **Negative Aspects: Fickle Love and Faulty Religion** (**6:4-6**)

- God’s frustration at fickle/fleeting love of His people → Judgment (*hewn/slain*) of God’s word through the

prophets ~ Light (NIV: lightning) → Why? God wants *hesed* and knowledge (internal) versus insincere sacrifice or offerings (external)

- Irony: “Knowledge” of Baal rites (cf. **Hosea 4:6**)

## ❖ Summary

- God is quick to respond with love and mercy to genuine repentance, but does not abide the insincere “love” and “worship of His people!
- **Transition:** What’s the message for us?

## THE SO WHAT? (APPLICATION)

### ❖ Revival (Goal)

- Latin ~ “live again”
- Based on a knowledge of God through His word!
  - **Quote** (Iain Murray, *Revival and Revivalism*): God works in accordance with his Word. Without Scripture there is no ‘work of the Spirit.’ The test whether experience is of the Spirit of God or of ‘another spirit’ is whether or not it brings greater understanding of the Bible and a closer obedience to it.
  - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12**
- **Examples:** Great Awakening-D.L. Moody-Billy Sunday (**Illus:** Cat!)-Billy Graham

### ❖ Repentance (Requirement)

- Hebrew (שוב) ~ “to turn back (to God)” ~ *Confession* (def.) and Seeking
  - From: Rebellion and Rejecting God’s Revelation
  - To: God ~ Greek *metanoia/eo* “change the mind” about Christ!
- Texts:
  - ““Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “**Turn** to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him— A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?” **Joel 2:12–14**
  - “and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”” **Mark 1:15**
  - “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to **repentance**. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For **godly sorrow** produces **repentance** leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the **sorrow of the world** produces death.” **2 Corinthians 7:9–10**
  - “testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance** toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Acts 20:21**
  - “Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.” **Matthew 5:4**
    - **Definitions:** Regret (mind) → Remorse (mind-heart) → Repentance (mind-heart-will)

### ❖ Reliability (Basis)

- GRACE: God’s mercy and forgiveness is certain ~ seasons and light following the darkness (~ illumination)
- SIN: unreliability of mankind (~ transient/fickle/fleeting/insincere)
  - **Illus:** “Burned-Over District” → Cults
- JESUS: Foundation of “3<sup>rd</sup> Day” Resurrection ~ Gospel: “and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **1 Corinthians 15:4**

### ❖ Religion (Danger)

- External Ritual (OT—**Isaiah 1:11-20**)?
  - **Quote** (Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai at the loss of the Temple sacrifice in 70 AD): We have another atonement as effective as this (~ *mitzvot* versus blood atonement) → **Illus:** Live Kapparot

### ❖ Relationship (Correct Answer)

- “Internal” Reality ~ Saving Faith

- Jesus: “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” **Matthew 9:13** and **\*\* Matthew 12:1-8**

➤ OT Texts:

- “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.” **Psalm 51:17**
- “To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.” **Proverbs 21:3**
- “So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.” **1 Samuel 15:22**

❖ **Conclusion**

- **\*\*** Do we seek revival in our lives/family/churches/nation? It can only truly come by doing it God’s way—based on His standards and requirements!
  
- (CtW) “Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” **Isaiah 55:6–7**

- ❖ **Big Idea:** True revival is the result of a proper response to God.

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**