

# HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(REAPING THE WHIRLWIND)



- ❖ \*\* Valentine's Day ~ "Love!" → Misguided? Mardi Gras (debauchery!) → Ash Wednesday (Repentance/Lent) → Resurrection (Hope in the Promise)!

## 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 ~ "2nd 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.
  - *True Revival* (Hosea 5:15-6:6) → God is quick to respond with love and mercy to genuine repentance, but does not abide the insincere "love" and "worship of His people!" ~ **Big Idea:** True revival is the result of a proper response to God. NOT! →
  - *What Sin Looks Like* (Hosea 6:7-7:16) → Sins of Israel ~ ugly rejection/violence/deceit/betrayal/robbery/arrogance → led by *priests* and *political leaders* ~ *Realpolitik!* ~ **Big Idea:** Corporate—and individual—sin is not hidden from God ~ And it has consequences...
- ❖ **Text:** Hosea 8:1-9:17 (CtW) Romans 6:23
- ❖ **Big Idea:** Sin brings deserved judgment and separation from God (another cycle!).

## THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

- ❖ **Reaping the Whirlwind** (Hosea 8:1-9:17)
  - NB: Context of Covenant ~ Curses for Disobedience (cf. Mount Ebal ~ Deuteronomy 28:15-68)
  - **The Reaping** (Hosea 8:1-14)
    - The Approaching Enemy (1-3) ~ Trumpet alarm! Broken covenant and lack of knowledge
      - "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth." Deuteronomy 28:25 – "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand," Deuteronomy 28:49
    - The Futile Defense (4-6) ~ Looking to kings and Baal (~ *Realpolitik* and *vox populi*)
    - The Assyrian Whirlwind (7-10) ~ Note: Vivid agricultural metaphor
      - **Illus:** "Inherit the Wind" ~ "He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart." Proverbs 11:29

- The Hypocritical Worship (11-14) ~ Sinful “ritual” versus God’s Law
  - Punishment: ““And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’ And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.”” **Deuteronomy 28:68** – ““They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.”” **Deuteronomy 28:52**

➤ **The Results** (Hosea 9:1-6)

- No Joyful Harvests (1-3) ~ Prostitute to Baals?! Source of fertility?
  - God’s Land ~ ““The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.”” **Leviticus 25:23** → Eat in Assyria!
- No Pleasing Worship (4-6) ~ Proper Sacrifices not available in the Temple/Bread only fit for “survival”
  - **Picture:** Desolation...

➤ **The Reasons** (Hosea 9:7-17)

- Rejection of the Prophets (7-9) ~ Sin and hatred when confronted by God’s Word!
  - **Analogy:** Sins at Gibeah ~ ““And so it was that all who saw it said, ‘No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!’”” **Judges 19:30** → Until now!
- Acceptance of Baal Worship (10-14) ~ Fertility cult → No Fertility!
  - From delight to detestable...
  - **History:** Baal Peor (**Numbers 25:1-18**)
  - **Picture:** Tyre ~ Security and Pride (cf. **Ezekiel 28**—Prince of Tyre ~ Satan)
- Wicked Disobedience (15-17) ~ Gilgal: Saul made King (**1 Samuel 11:14-15**) and Syncretistic Worship (**Hosea 4:15**)
  - Disobedience brings banishment (~ Canaanites and Garden) and captivity ~ **\*\* Deuteronomy 28:62-68**

❖ **Summary**

- Israel’s impending and inexorable Judgment (captivity and separation from God’s favor/blessing/joy) is a result of not listening to and disobeying God → Not worshipping Him properly (~ idolatry—Golden Calf)
- **\*\* Covenant deflection brings covenant curses!** (~ **Deuteronomy 28**)
- **Transition:** What’s the message for us?

**THE SO WHAT?** (APPLICATION)

- NB: Cycles ~ Past Sermons (above)...

❖ **The Principle**

- The Law of Retribution (*lex talionis*)
  - “Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.” **Job 4:8**
  - “He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail.” **Proverbs 22:8**
  - **\*\* Divine Justice** (more later...)

➤ The Sins

- **Secular** (*Realpolitik*—Sermon **Hosea 6:7-7:16: What Sin Looks Like) Trust?
 
  - Israel and Kings? → “Make for us a king to judge us like all the nations” ~ “And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.’” **1 Samuel 8:7**
  - **\*\* Us?** “Christian Nationalism”?**

◆ NB: Sermon Series (*God's Word and Your Vote*) ~ Ultimate Citizenship?

■ **Sacred** (*vox populi*) Failure (~ progression?)

• *Rejection of God's Word*

◆ **History:** The Fall (**Genesis 3**)

◆ \*\* What do we do when confronted by God's word? Anger? Hatred? Sin!

◆ "Watchmen" (or "Crazy Pastor" v. 7) ~ "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul." **Ezekiel 33:7-9**

➤ Responsibility of Preacher: \*\* **2 Timothy 3:16-4:5**

◆ **Reality:** "Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain." **Psalm 127:1**

• *Acceptance of Worldly Worship*

◆ \*\* How we worship the One True God! Man-centered? Cultural "accommodation"?

➤ **Illus:** Seeker Sensitive and Word-Faith Movement

➤ Violates: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandments (cf. The Big 10 Study)

Idolatry Comment:

• Idea: External (~ *mode of worship vs object*) → Overlap with 1<sup>st</sup> Command (~ different numbering systems)

• Attractions of Idolatry (from Douglas Stuart, *Exodus*):

◆ **Guaranteed:** presence of god with idol ~ became conduit to god = always heard

◆ **Selfish:** material "feeding" of god obligated that god to bless you ~ *quid pro quo*

◆ **Easy:** frequent, generous ritual satisfied the requirements ~ no requirement for ethical living

◆ **Convenient:** worship anywhere, anytime you want (vs central worship)

◆ **Normal:** common to other religions ~ fit in with what "prosperous" people/states did

◆ **Logical:** polytheism had specific answers for life → "national god" did not interfere with personal and family gods ~ "both-and"

◆ **Pleasing to the Senses:** fun show and images ~ entertaining

◆ **Indulgent:** great food and drink ~ debauchery as generosity to the god

◆ **Erotic:** temple prostitution brought "sympathetic" god fertility acts in heaven

➤ NB: Violates the *immanence* and *transcendence* of God (His attributes)

• Danger: The *tools* of worship become the *objects* of worship ~ "image incorporates the reality"

◆ Examples: Jeroboams Calves (**1 Kings 12:25-33**) → Nehushtan (**Numbers 21:9**) ~ "He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan." **2 Kings 18:4** → The Ark (~ *Raiders of the Lost Ark*—"transmitter for talking to God") ~ "And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, 'Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.'" **1 Samuel 4:3**

• *Wicked Disobedience*

◆ \*\* Syncretism (~ Gilgal) → Secular Humanism (*-isms...*) → Autonomy and Licentiousness!

◆ "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law." **Proverbs 29:18**

◆ \*\* **Ephesians 4:17-22**

❖ **The Punishment** (*Deserved* → Justice)

- Temporal Consequences
  - Israel: Captivity
  - Christians: Discipline ~ “And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”” **Hebrews 12:5-6**
- Eternal Separation
  - Hell! ~ “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”” **Revelation 21:8**

#### ❖ The Promise

- “But God...” (~ Hints v. 9:10)
  - Israel: Regathering → Kinsman-Redeemer (*Goel* ~ **Leviticus 25, Ruth**)
    - ““I will strengthen the house of Judah, And I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, Because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I am the LORD their God, And I will hear them.”” **Zechariah 10:6**
  - Christians: **\*\* Galatians 6:6-10**

#### ❖ Conclusion

- God’s Holiness → Our Sin → His Provision (Easter) → Our Response (Ash Wednesday) → BIG Valentine!
- Big Idea: Sin brings deserved judgment and separation from God → “But God...” (CtW) “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 6:23**

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**