

HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(WICKEDNESS AND WAR)



❖ ** A Tale of God's Vineyard: ** **Isaiah 5:1-7**

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...
- *Reaping the Whirlwind* (**Hosea 8:1-9:17**) → Israel's impending and inexorable judgment is a result of not listening to and disobeying God → Not worshipping Him properly ~ **Big Idea:** Sin brings deserved judgment and separation from God.

❖ **Text:** **Hosea 10:1-15** (CtW) **Revelation 6:12-17**

❖ **Big Idea:** Sin always brings judgment ~ "Reap the Whirlwind!"

THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

❖ **Wickedness and War** (**Hosea 10:1-15**)

- NB: Word pictures (~ metaphors) make wickedness and judgment vivid.

➤ **Wealth and Idols** (**Hosea 10:1-3**)

- Consequence: Destruction of altars, idols, and monarchy—Too late!

➤ **Oaths and Bulls** (**Hosea 10:4-6**)

- *Beth Aven* (Bethel) ~ "House of Evil" (**Hosea 4:15** and **5:8**)
- Consequence: Bull idol (~ false worship) will be carried away—shame! Too late!

➤ **Kings and Altars** (**Hosea 10:7-8**)

- Consequence: King(ship) ended and high places/altars destroyed → Terror of destruction!

➤ **Gibeah and Nations** (**Hosea 10:9-10**)

- Depravity of *Gibeah* (**Hosea 9:9** and **Judges 19**)
- Consequence: God's "desired" punishment for wickedness!

➤ **Heifers and Harnesses** (**Hosea 10:11-12**)

- Consequence: Freedom and unrestrained disobedience is coming to an end ~ "plow" without God!

- **Wickedness and War** (Hosea 10:13-15)
 - *Shalman* and *Beth Arbel* ~ unknown, but terrible reminder!
 - Consequence: Wickedness and self-reliance (MT ~ *caused* by Bethel—vs. LXX) brings war and destruction.

❖ Summary

- **** Too late! Assyria and War...**
 - “Then He said to me: “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel, not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you. But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.” **Ezekiel 3:4-7**
 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 6:23**
- **Transition:** What’s the message for us?

THE SO WHAT? (APPLICATION)

❖ Sins (** *The Big 10?*)

- Trust in wealth?
- Idolatry?
- No fear of the LORD?
- Perverted justice/false oaths?
- Deceitful oaths (~ covenant)?
- Pagan religion and idolatrous priests?
- Depravity and unrestrained immorality/liberty?
- “Plowing” wickedness?
- Trusting selves and military power?
- Consequence: Terror of destruction ~ Reap the Whirlwind! → “fearful thing...” (Hebrews 10:31)
 - (CtW) “and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” **Revelation 6:16**
 - **** Luke 23:26-34**

❖ Solution (Hosea 10:12 ~ Better sowing and reaping!)

- **Sow:** Righteousness ~ Fear the LORD (~ Hosea 10:3):
 - “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.’ **Job 28:28**
 - Genesis 22:12
- **Reap:** *hesed* ~ Covenant Loyalty!
- **Plow** (~ new start): Seek the LORD
 - “For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” **2 Corinthians 6:2**
- **Rain:** Righteousness
 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”” **Romans 1:16-17**

❖ Conclusion

- “And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”” **Genesis 22:12**
- **Big Idea:** Sin always brings judgment ~ “Reap the Whirlwind!” → *hesed* → Solution!
- **** Apostles’ Creed and Communion**

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