

HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(THE LOVE OF GOD)



- ❖ ** Cannot be separated from: The Will of God ~ “on earth as it is in heaven...” → Consequences for disobedience of the *revealed*/moral will ~ JUDGMENT! Trust the *secret*/sovereign will ~ HOPE (Love)!

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 2:2-2:3) → 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.
 - *Wickedness and War* (Hosea 10:1-15) → Israel’s sin will result in judgment brought at the hands of Assyria. ~ **Big Idea:** Sin always brings judgment!
- ❖ **Text:** **Hosea 11:1-11** (CtW) **Matthew 2:13-15**
- ❖ **Big Idea:** God’s love for His people overcomes their sin.

THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

- ❖ **The Love of God** (Hosea 11:1-11)
 - **Tender Memories** (Hosea 11:1-4)
 - **Picture** (~ Exodus): A loving Father not appreciated by a child (NB: *vs* wife) for healing ~ Waters of Marah: “and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.”” **Exodus 15:26**
 - **Terrible Destruction** (Hosea 11:5-7)
 - Scheming/Backsliding/Turning Away → Destruction and Assyrian Captivity!
 - **Tempered Discipline** (Hosea 11:8-9)
 - NB: Admah and Zeboiim destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah ~ symbols of absolute destruction (Cf. **Deuteronomy 29:21-25**)
 - **Picture:** A tender, compassionate, sympathetic Father consumed by love → Punishment NOT permanent!
 - **Trembling Return** (Hosea 11:10-11)
 - **Picture:** A mighty, roaring Lion calling His people back from captivity to dwell in security.

❖ Summary

- Failure of Worship (Judgment) → HOPE!
 - **** Easter Redux? ** John 3:16** (Source-Sentiment-Scope-Sacrifice-Savior-Summons-Simplicity-Shelter-Security-Splendor)
- **Transition:** What's the message for us?

THE SO WHAT? (APPLICATION)

❖ Source of Grace (Source-Scope)

- Exodus Typology (**Matthew 2:13-15**): Redemption of faithless Israel (son—Exodus) < Return of “Faithful Israel” (Son—Fleeing Herod). NB: Moses/killing of Hebrew boys ~ Herod killing boys in Bethlehem (**Matthew 2:16-18**)
- Israel (Wife): ““For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**
- Church (Bride): “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” **Ephesians 1:3-6**

❖ Sinking in Sin (Sacrifice-Savior)

- NB: “Spatial” scheming...
- **** Hebrews 10:26-31**

❖ Supremacy of Love (Sentiment)

- Covenant *hesed* → CROSS (Incarnation ~ God in our *midst*—**Hosea 11:8**)
- Divine (Covenant “Reason”) LOVE (Tender “Emotion—**Illus:** Barney) ~ “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” **1 John 4:16:** (*From Gary Smith, NIVAC)
 - God chose to love His people and called them to be members of His covenant family.
 - God’s love is expressed in His teaching and leading.
 - God’s love is shown in healing and delivering from trouble.
 - God’s love will not give up on people when they fail.
 - God’s love will fulfill His promises.
 - [God’s love can not be separated from His *secret* and *revealed* will.]

❖ Security of Dwelling (Shelter-Security-Splendor)

- **** Revelation 21:3, 12, 25**
- A Tale of Two Lions:
 - Satan ~ “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” **1 Peter 5:8**
 - Jesus ~ “But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”” **Revelation 5:5**
 - **** Which Lion is worthy of the greater awe? **Illus:** Aslan... “not safe, but good!”**

❖ Conclusion

- **** Experience God’s Love? → Share God’s Love** ~ “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;” **2 Corinthians 5:14**
- **** John 3:16**
- Big Idea: God’s love for His people overcomes their sin.

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