

HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(DANGEROUS DECEPTION)



- ❖ **Quote** (Sir Walter Scott, *Marmion*): "Oh! What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive."
 - NB: The quote is often used to talk about the complex destructive effect that lying tends to have on life. When people start lying, they have to remember all the details of the lie rather than their true memory in order to keep the lie going when others ask about it. The quote also refers to the fact that lying often has unforeseen consequences.

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.
 - *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!
 - *The Love of God* (Hosea 11:1-11) → Turning away from God will bring tough—but not permanent—discipline. ~ **Big Idea:** God's love for His people overcomes their sin!

❖ **Text:** Hosea 11:12-12:14 (CtW) Deuteronomy 34:10-12

❖ **Big Idea:** Lies and deception don't fool God and only harm us.

THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

- ❖ **Dangerous Deception** (Hosea 11:12-12:14)
 - **Treacherous Treaties** (Hosea 11:12-12:1)
 - *Judah?* Positive: NKJ/ESV (MT) or Negative: NIV/NAS (LXX)
 - Relying on *Egypt* (cf. 2 Kings 17:1-6) ~ "Faustian" Bargain (or "Faucian"?)
 - **Treacherous Twin** (Hosea 12:2-6)
 - NB: Covenant lawsuit language...

- *Judah* (~ *Hosea* 5:12 and 6:4) → *Jacob* (Heb. ~ “supplanter/grasper”):
 - Supplant Esau (*Genesis* 25:26)
 - Struggle with God (*Genesis* 32:24-30)
 - ◆ NB: “Angel” (cf. *Judges* 13:18)
 - Significance of Bethel (*Genesis* 35:9-12)
 - **Quote** (D. Garrett): Jacob the supplanter...was transformed into Israel the suppliant, the recipient of grace.
- Memorial Name? LORD! Response: *Return—Observe—Wait*

➤ **Treacherous Traders** (*Hosea* 12:7-10)

- (-) “I” ~ *Merchant* (Heb. ~ “Canaanite”—known as traders) → “Innocent” of any iniquity (!)
 - NB: Background ~ “Saying: “When will the New Moon be past, That we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, That we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, Falsifying the scales by deceit,” **Amos 8:5**
- (+) “I AM” ~ Reminder of the *Sukkot* during the Exodus: 1) Humiliation (judgment) and 2) Trust in the LORD’s provision (restoration) as spoken by the **Prophets**.

➤ **Treacherous “Twice-Fruitful”** (*Hosea* 12:11-14)

- Wickedness (social) of *Gilead* (cf. *Hosea* 6:8) → “come to naught” (~ ESV)
- Idolatry and false worship of *Gilgal* (cf. *Hosea* 4:15 and 9:15) → the altars will be destroyed
- **Analogy**:
 - *Jacob*: Fleeing Esau (*Syria* cf. *Deuteronomy* 26:5) → Servitude with Laban (“tended”)
 - *Israel*: Fleeing servitude in Egypt and delivered by a (why unnamed?) **Prophet** (Moses—“preserved”)
- *Ephraim* deserves God’s wrath and their bloodguilt!

❖ **Summary**

- God, through His prophets, has proclaimed just judgment on His people’s sin—He is not “fooled” by deception, idolatry, and wickedness. But, God through His prophets, also proclaims the restoration that follows repentance.
- **Transition**: What’s the message for us?

THE SO WHAT? (APPLICATION)

❖ **The “I” of Lies and Deception (-)**

- Spiritual? “Encircled” (11:12)! (Commandment 9)
 - ““The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.” **Jeremiah 17:9-10**
- *Realpolitik*? Trust? (Commandment 1)
- *Jacob* (Heb. ~ “supplanter”): ** Don’t be this guy! ~ Deception to get ahead...
 - Stole Esau’s *birthright* (*Genesis* 25:29-34) and *blessing* (*Genesis* 27:36)
 - NB: “Karma” of running into Uncle Laban!
- “I” the Id:
 - Oppression?
 - Wealth (cf. Rich Fool ~ *Luke* 12:13-21)?
 - No “iniquity”?
 - **Quote** (William Ernest Henley, *Invictus* ~ “stiff upper lip”):

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

- Idolatry? “Altars” (Commandment 2)? Vanity (Commandment 3)?

➤ ** Result: *Wrath and Bloodguilt*

❖ The “I AM” of Deliverance and Hope (+)

➤ Deliverance from bondage ~ Exodus! ~ “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” **Exodus 19:4**

➤ “Tough Love” of the Prophets → Moses (“The Prophet” ~ **Deuteronomy 18:18-19** → **John 1:21** and **Hebrews 3**)

➤ “Presence” of *Sukkot* → ** **John 1:14**

➤ *Israel* (Heb. ~ “struggle”): ** Be this guy! His “journey” and encounters with God:

- Bethel: ** **Genesis 28:19**
- Peniel: ** **Genesis 32:24-30**
- Bethel: ** **Genesis 35:9-12**

➤ ** Result: *Restoration* ~ “Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living God.’” **Hosea 1:10**

❖ The “I Do” for Us (+ of **Hosea 6:6** and **12:6** ~ *The 6’s*):

➤ *Repentance* (שוב)?

➤ Observe (שמר ~ guard/keep): *Mercy* (חֶסֶד) and *Justice* (מִשְׁפָּט)? NB: Biblical Justice is not the same as Social Justice!

➤ *Faith* (קָוָה ~ wait/have hope/look for)?

➤ The “Arnholt” ~ “With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do *justly*, To love *mercy*, And to walk *humbly* with your God?” **Micah 6:6-8**

❖ Conclusion

➤ ** Self-Effort and Deception → *Repentance!* → Redemption and Provision → *Remember!*

➤ Big Idea: Lies and deception don’t fool God and only harm us → Aren’t you grateful the God is “I AM”?

SOLI DEO GLORIA