

# HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(FROM DEATH, HOPE)



❖ **Illus:** *Death and Destruction* in war... → *New Life* (~ Hope)! Cf. Revolutionary War/Civil War/World Wars

## 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.
- *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!
- *Dangerous Deception* (Hosea 11:12-12:14) → God—through His prophets—exposes the lies and deception of His people, but also proclaims His restoration that follows repentance. ~ **Big Idea:** Lies and deception don’t fool God and only harm us.

❖ **Text:** **Hosea 13:1-16** (CtW) **1 Corinthians 15:55-57**

❖ **Big Idea:** Sin brings death and destruction, but new life follows by God’s grace.

## THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

❖ **From Death, Hope** (Hosea 13:1-16)

- **Idolatry Brings Death** (Hosea 13:1-3)
  - Ephraim (~ prominent tribe) → Idolatry ~ “life/fertility” (NB: Some trans. “human sacrifice”) → Death → Transience

➤ **Forgetfulness Brings Destruction** (Hosea 13:4-8)

- God (NOT Baal) delivered Israel → “Forgot”! → Destruction (vivid!)

➤ **Kings Bring Ruin** (Hosea 13:9-11)

- God is the True King/Help → desire king? ~ Saul: “and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. 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. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. Now therefore, heed their

voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.””  
**1 Samuel 8:5-9** → Assyrian King!

- ***Iniquity Brings Pain*** (Hosea 13:12-14)
  - Stored guilt → Pain of childbirth, but no birth (~ deliverance) → Not wise “baby”...
  - \*\* Hope: *Ransom* and *Redeem* \*\*
- ***Rebellion Brings Devastation*** (Hosea 13:15-16)
  - **English Proverb**: Ill wind blows no man good... → Graphic!

#### ❖ **Summary**

- Death, destruction, ruin, pain, and devastation are the just rewards of sin. But God...
- **Transition**: What’s the message for us?

### THE SO WHAT? (APPLICATION)

#### ❖ **Bringer of Death**

- Reality (Palestinian Covenant): \*\* **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**
- Some specifics:
  - Idolatry?
  - Forgetfulness/Ingratitude?
  - Pride ~ \*\* **Deuteronomy 8:11-20**
  - Misplaced trust (~ kings)?
  - Foolishness? ~ “The devising of foolishness is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to men.” **Proverbs 24:9**
- Result: *Deserved* death, destruction, ruin, pain, and devastation...

#### ❖ **Giver of Life**

- Easter Re-redux: \*\* **1 Corinthians 15**
- Some exhortations:
  - Grateful: Past? Present? Future?
    - “and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”” **1 Corinthians 11:24**
    - “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.” **Revelation 3:3**
    - “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” **Ephesians 2:11-12**
  - Hope? (!)
- \*\* Judgment (death of the grave) → Victory (resurrection life)

#### ❖ **Conclusion**

- Our Response: \*\* **Romans 10:8-17**
- Big Idea: Sin brings death and destruction, but new life follows by God’s grace.

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