

HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION)



- ❖ **Quote** (Charles Dickens, 1859, *A Tale of Two Cities*): It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

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!
 - *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.
 - *From Death, Hope* (Hosea 13:1-16) → Death, destruction, ruin, pain, and devastation are the just rewards of sin. But God still ransoms and redeems His people. ~ **Big Idea:** Sin brings death and destruction, but new life follows by God’s grace.

- ❖ **Text:** Hosea 14:12-9 (CtW) Matthew 3:1-3, 8

- ❖ **Big Idea:** When we turn to God from our sin, He restores our broken relationship.

THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

- ❖ **Repentance and Restoration** (Hosea 14:1-9)
 - *A Call to Repentance* (Hosea 14:1-3)
 - Turn *to* the LORD
 - Why? Sin!
 - ◆ **Illus:** Hosea pleading with Gomer?
 - How? Genuine Prayer ~ Trust in God’s Grace (cf. Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Hosea 11:1-11)

◆ Earlier: **** Hosea 6:1-3** and **** Hosea 6:6** and **** Hosea 11:8-9**

- Turn *from* Sin
 - Assyria ~ Realpolitik/Human Alliances
 - Horses ~ Military Might/Human Strength
 - Work of Our Hands ~ Idols of Our Making
- Reality and Promise: *In You...*
 - NB: Reversal of Israel as 1) *Lo-Ammi* (Hosea 1:9) and 2) *Lo-Ruhamah* (Hosea 1:6)

➤ **The Promise of Restoration** (Hosea 14:4-8)

- **Description:** Healing/Love/Anger “Turned” → “Botanical Bounty” (vs. Hosea 11:15)
 - NB: *Lebanon* ~ (+) Hiram of Tyre provided wood for Temple (1 Kings 5:1-12) and (-) Home of Jezebel and Baal “Fertility” Cult (1 Kings 16:31-33)
- *Return from Exile* (7) < Final *Regathering* in Belief ~ ““On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says the LORD who does this thing. “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.” **Amos 9:11-15**
- **** Done with Idolatry** (cf. Exodus 20:3)!

➤ **The Wisdom Epilogue** (Postscript—Hosea 14:9)

- The Final Word: Wisdom → Understanding = Prudent → Knowledge → Right Ways for Righteous!

❖ **Summary**

- Nation of Israel: *Repentance* (Sin → Judgment) → *Restoration* from Exile < Relationship → **WISDOM**
 - Ultimate: “And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?” **Romans 11:17-24**
- **Transition:** What’s the message for us?

THE SO WHAT? (APPLICATION)

❖ **“A Tale of Two Turnings”**

- **Ours:** *Repentance* (Heb. “turn” → Gr. “change the mind”)
 - *To* the LORD and *From* Sin...
 - Verses:
 - (CtW) “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”” **Matthew 3:1-3** and “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,” **Matthew 3:8**

- “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 2:38**
- “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” **2 Corinthians 7:9–10**
- **Transition:** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” **Hebrews 13:15**

➤ **God’s: Restoration** (~ Fruits of Repentance)

- *From* (Heb. “turn away from anger”) and *To* (~ Healing Love and “Botanical Bounty”) ~ “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” **John 15:4**
- *Big Words from a Big God* (*2020 Series):

◆ Atonement ~ “at-one-ment” (vs. New Age)	<i>Penal Substitutionary Atonement</i>
◆ Redemption ~ Relationship: <i>Sinner → Sin</i>	Bondage → Freedom
◆ Propitiation ~ Relationship: <i>God → Sinner</i>	Appease Wrath
◆ Reconciliation ~ Relationship: <i>Sinner → God</i>	Brought into Right Relationship
◆ Regeneration ~ Relationship: <i>Death → Life</i>	“Born Again!”
◆ Justification ~ Relationship: <i>Life → Legal Standing</i>	Christ’s Imputed Righteous
◆ Adoption ~ Relationship: <i>Legal Standing → Family!</i>	Loved Heirs!
◆ Forgiveness ~ Relationship: <i>Fellowship Becomes Possible!</i>	Lord’s Prayer Standard!
◆ Sanctification ~ Relationship: <i>Set Apart → Grow in Christian Maturity</i>	“Christ-likeness”

❖ **So What? “The Way of Wisdom”**

- ““The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” **Proverbs 9:10**
- ** The key to biblical wisdom is not intelligence, but submission.
- ** Our Choice? **Illus** (*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*): He chose poorly... You have chosen wisely...
- **Quote** (Augustine, *Confessions*): Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.

❖ **Series Conclusion**

- **BIG Idea:** When we turn to God from our sin, He restores our broken relationship (vertical *and* horizontal) → *Hosea: Covenant Judgment and Love!*
- **Quote** (Charles Dickens, 1859, *A Tale of Two Cities*): It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.
 - ** Apostles’ Creed and Lord’s Supper

SOLI DEO GLORIA