

HOSEA – GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE - Israel’s Sin, but God’s Heartbeat and Love for His Wife, Israel! – CHAPTERS 4-6

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land. Hos 4:2 By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

Hos 4:3 Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

Hos 4:4 "Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

Hos 4:5 Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Hos 4:7 "The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

Hos 4:8 They eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity.

Hos 4:9 And it shall be: like people, like priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds.

Hos 4:10 For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying the LORD.

Hos 4:11 "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.

Hos 4:12 My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, And their staff informs them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, And they have played the harlot against their God.

v. 1- The Lord has a “charge”, a lawsuit, in which God is plaintiff, and the Israelites defendants. It is Jehovah versus Israel and Judah. But when has God a controversy with any land? - Answer. When there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. These refer to the minds of the people. But wherever these righteous principles are wanting, there will soon be a vicious practice.

v. 2 “Break all restraint” - As waters that swell above all banks. “bloodshed upon bloodshed” or touching bloodsheds - Slaughters are multiplied; so that the end of one is the beginning of another.

v. 3 When God judges a nation, the land itself is involved and even the beasts and fowls suffer because of the sin of man.

v. 4 The priest in that day was not doing his duty; he was not warning the people. Therefore, God raised up the prophets.

v. 5 “And I will destroy your mother”—that is, God will destroy the nation. There were false prophets in Israel—even as we have false prophets today—telling the people, “Everything is going to be all right. We live in a new age. The Bible is an outmoded book, and the Ten Commandments belong to our grandfathers and grandmothers.

v. 6 “Destroyed” - Many were already cut off by Pul king of Assyria, and many destroyed by the bloody tyranny of Menahem. Of knowledge - Of God, his law, his providence, his holy nature, his hatred of sin and power to punish it. Because thou - The prophet now turns from the people to the priests, to whom he speaks as to one person. Rejected knowledge - Are and will be ignorant. Seeing you - O Israel, and you O priests, you have broken all the precepts of it. “your children” - The people of Israel, the whole kingdom of the ten tribes.

v. 7 “they” - Kings, priests, and people. Were increased - In number, in riches, and honor. So they sinned - Sin grew with their wealth and honor. Their glory - They turned all that in which they might glory above others, into sin. I will turn it into their dishonor.

v. 8 They - The priests who minister to the idols. The sin - Probably by sin is meant sin - offering, in which the priest had his share. And they - Covetous, luxurious, idolatrous priests.

v. 9 The unfortunate thing was that the priesthood in Israel had sunk down to the level of the congregation.

v. 10 “not have enough” - They shall not be nourished, nor satisfied with what they eat. Shall not increase - They shall not hereby increase the number of their children, either the women shall not bear, or the children shall not live.

v. 11 “enslave the heart” - Deprive men of their understanding and judgment.

v. 12 “wooden idols” Wooden statues. The spirit of harlotry or whoredom - A heart ensnared with whoredoms, spiritual and corporal. Caused them to err - Has blinded, and deceived them.

Introduction to Chapters 4-6: Hosea was basically a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. His period of prophecy was pretty much the same time as Isaiah. **God is faithful. He has not left Himself without a witness.** Even at the time of national deterioration, the nation turning their back upon God, apostasizing, and as Hosea declares, “Israel is sliding back, as a backsliding heifer”. Israel in this backslidden condition, **God is still faithful to give them His word.** He does not leave Himself without a witness, and thus in this backslidden state, a state of apostasy, God continues to warn.

As long as God is speaking, that there is the opportunity to repent. When God is no longer speaking, then is when you want to be careful! You know, **if you’re living in sin, if you’ve turned your back upon God, and God is speaking to your heart, good.** There’s still an opportunity to repent. But, **be careful that, that day doesn’t come when God ceases to speak. When you no longer hear the voice of God checking you in your activities that are sinful.**

So God is still speaking to Israel, though they have really crossed the line. **They’ve gone too far into their iniquity, and into their sin, and judgment must come.** And, as we will get in our scripture tonight, judgment does come upon the nation, but yet, the mercy of God. Though God has torn, yet will He heal. **That tearing of God is always with the ultimate result of healing.**

God only afflicts in order that He might bring you to the place of repentance, walking again with Him, where He can heal, where He can bless. Oh the mercies of God, they never cease! I thank God for that wonderful mercy that He has bestowed, and showed to us in our failures. I thank God for the chastisement that brings us back to Him. He doesn’t let us go, but He stubbornly loves us, refusing to let us go, drawing us back to Himself.

Last week, we looked at the home life of Hosea. It was all a picture of God taking the nation of Israel, and their turning from God, their worshiping other gods, but just being destroyed through their own sin, and their own lusts, and how that God will redeem them again, and draw them back unto Himself. It was all through similitudes.

But in chapter four, it changes and God is not speaking through an illustration, but He is speaking directly to the nation, straightforward.

HOSEA – GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE - Israel’s Sin, but God’s Heartbeat and Love for His Wife, Israel! – CHAPTERS 4-6

OBSERVATION

Hos 4:13 They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops, And burn incense on the hills, Under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, Because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters commit harlotry, And your brides commit adultery.

Hos 4:14 "I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, Nor your brides when they commit adultery; For the men themselves go apart with harlots, And offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot. Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled.

Hos 4:15 "Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Let not Judah offend. Do not come up to Gilgal, Nor go up to Beth Aven, Nor swear an oath, saying, 'As the LORD lives'—

Hos 4:16 "For Israel is stubborn Like a stubborn calf; Now the LORD will let them forage Like a lamb in open country.

Hos 4:17 "Ephraim is joined to idols, Let him alone.

Hos 4:18 Their drink is rebellion, They commit harlotry continually. Her rulers dearly love dishonor.

Hos 4:19 The wind has wrapped her up in its wings, And they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Hos 5:1 "Hear this, O priests! Take heed, O house of Israel! Give ear, O house of the king! For yours is the judgment, Because you have been a snare to Mizpah And a net spread on Tabor.

Hos 5:2 The revolvers are deeply involved in slaughter, Though I rebuke them all.

Hos 5:3 I know Ephraim, And Israel is not hidden from Me; For now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled.

Hos 5:4 "They do not direct their deeds Toward turning to their God, For the spirit of harlotry is in their midst, And they do not know the LORD.

INTERPRETATION

v. 13 “shade is good” - Convenient for the sacrificers. Shall commit harlotry - Shall dishonor themselves, and their families, with fornicators.

v. 14 “Nor your brides” - I will give them up to their own hearts. For themselves - The husband and fathers are examples to their wives and daughters. Therefore the people - The drunken, ignorant people, that know not God. “will be trampled” - Be utterly ruined.

v. 15 God is saying, “I am going to hold Judah back. I will not judge Judah yet. And Judah, don't you come up and worship these calves which Israel has put up here.”

v. 16 “Israel” - The ten tribes. “like a stubborn calf” - As a back-sliding heifer - Which when grown lusty, and wanton, will neither endure the yoke nor be confined in her allowed pastures. In a large place - In a large place or wilderness, where is no rest, safety or provision; such shall be the condition of the ten tribes. up.

v. 17 Ephraim - When God says to the Spirit, “Let them alone. My Spirit”, He said, “will not always strive with man”. There can come a time in your life, where your continual turning your back on God, turning against God, that God will just cut you off and say, “Okay, let them alone”. No more conviction of sin. No more drawing unto Jesus. “Just let them alone. They’re given over to idolatry.”

v. 18 Their drink - Their wine is corrupt and hurtful. Continually - Without ceasing from Jeroboam's time to this day. Give ear - Beside there is shameful oppression and bribery among them.

v. 19 The wind - The whirlwind of wrath from God hath seized this old adulteress, and carried some of her children away already. They shall be ashamed - What they made their confidence, shall be their shame.

v. 1 is the judgment - God's controversy is with you all. A snare - You, O priests and princes, have ensnared the people by your examples. Mizpah - By idolatries acted at Mizpah, southwest section of the kingdom. On Tabor - Here, as in Mizpah, idolatry caught men as birds are taken in a net.

v. 2 The revolvers - All those that have cast off the law of God. Deeply involved - Dig deep to hide their counsels, and to slay the innocent. Though I - Hosea.

v. 3 Ephraim — the tribe so called, as distinguished from “Israel” here, the other nine tribes. It was always foremost of the tribes of the northern kingdom. Ephraim is here addressed as foremost in idolatry. I know ... not hidden from Me — notwithstanding their supposed profound cunning. now —who commit such spiritual harlotries, are now continuing in them.

v. 4 They do not direct their deeds. - They never purpose to turn to God, they have fully imbibed the spirit of idolatry.

APPLICATION

v. 6 So my people [He said] are destroyed for the lack of knowledge: The lack of the knowledge of God, ultimately brings the destruction. *because you have rejected the knowledge of God*, Today, there are people who have rejected the knowledge of God, they have rejected the Bible. They do not believe that the bible, they say it contains the truth of God, but it is not the truth of God in their estimation. There are even those scholars who gather to determine, which parts of the bible are inspired and which parts are not inspired. **They have rejected the truth of God.** There are certain characteristics of God that they find odious. That He is a God of judgment, they don't like. **They want a syrupy God of love and sweetness, “and anything goes, you know accept me as I am, don't judge me, don't condemn me, don't tell me I'm wrong”, and they don't like the idea of a day of judgment coming.** They don't like punishment of the wicked. Thus, they've changed the truth of God.

Rom. 1:24:32 “Not only do they do those things that are worthy of death, but they take pleasure in those that do them”.

But it comes from not wanting to have God in your mind, or your consciousness. Wanting to get rid of God, the idea of God, the truth of God. Putting Him aside, rejecting the truth of God. Making up our own god, a god that will be lenient, a god that will be tolerant. A god that will wink at sin, and tolerate evil, and not judge for wrongdoing. But that is not the God that is revealed in the word of God. **To only speak of the love of God is to only deal with half of the truth. He is also a God of justice. Yes, He is a God of mercy, but He is also a God of justice, and judgment. A love that demands justice and judgment. So, the people are destroyed, they're going to go into destruction, they're going to be conquered, the land is going to be desolate, because they lack the knowledge of God.** They rejected the knowledge. Thus God said, *I also will reject you*, “You say, You deny me? Okay, I'll deny you. You reject me, I'll reject you.” Jesus said, “If you confess me before men, I'll confess you before my Father. If you deny me, I'll deny you.”

HOSEA – GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE - Israel’s Sin, but God’s Heartbeat and Love for His Wife, Israel! – CHAPTERS 4-6

OBSERVATION

Hos 5:5 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them.

Hos 5:6 "With their flocks and herds They shall go to seek the LORD, But they will not find Him; He has withdrawn Himself from them.

Hos 5:7 They have dealt treacherously with the LORD, For they have begotten pagan children. Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage.

Hos 5:8 "Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah, The trumpet in Ramah! Cry aloud at Beth Aven, 'Look behind you, O Benjamin!'

Hos 5:9 Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke; Among the tribes of Israel I make known what is sure.

Hos 5:10 "The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out my wrath on them like water.

Hos 5:11 Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, Because he willingly walked by human precept.

Hos 5:12 Therefore I will be to Ephraim like a moth, And to the house of Judah like rottenness.

Hos 5:13 "When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah saw his wound, Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb; Yet he cannot cure you, Nor heal you of your wound.

Hos 5:14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, And like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away, and no one shall rescue.

Hos 5:15 I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me."

Hos 6:1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

INTERPRETATION

v. 5 *The pride of Israel testifies to his face - So here's the prophecy of the fall of both the northern kingdom, and the southern kingdom. Though the southern kingdom lasted another hundred years, beyond the northern kingdom, yet they both did fall*

v. 6 *With flocks and herds they shall go..- They shall offer many sacrifices, professing to seek and be reconciled to the Lord; but they shall not find Him. As they still retain the spirit of their idolatry, He has withdrawn Himself from them.*

v. 7 *For they have begotten pagan children—that is, they are strange to God. The people did not bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

v. 8 *"Beth Aven" is Bethel. That part of the tribe of Benjamin had apparently revolted with the northern kingdom. God is saying here that the word of warning is to go out over all the land and to all the people.*

v. 9 *God had not failed to warn the people. He had warned them, He had rebuked them, and they still would not hear.*

v. 10 *The southern kingdom had apparently attempted to move its boundaries as far north as it possibly could, and there evidently was a real division caused by the fact that the two nations could not agree on the boundary. Although primarily a prophet to the northern kingdom, God had a message through Hosea for the southern kingdom as well.*

v. 11 *Ephraim willingly followed the idols and the worship of idols—he went with the crowd.*

v. 12 *A moth - Moths leisurely eat up our clothes; so God was then, and had been, from Jeroboam's death, weakening the ten tribes. As rottenness - Secretly consuming them.*

v. 13 *His sickness - Weakness, like a wasting disease, threatening death. Then Ephraim went - Made application. To Assyria - Particularly to Israel or Pul.*

v. 14 *Will tear - Divine vengeance by the Assyrians, shall be as a lion tearing his prey.*

v. 15 *Although this has been a doleful chapter entirely about judgment, it closes here with a note of hope. The time will come when Israel will again seek God, but He will not deliver them until they turn to Him.*

v. 1 *Come - Again, God in His dealing with us is severe, but it's for our benefit. It's so that we are not destroyed, or we don't destroy ourselves. No! He is loving, and because He is loving, He allows you these things. He will tear in order to heal, in order to turn you around. That's the important thing, to know that God only smites to heal. God only smites to correct you, to keep you from destroying yourself. It's really the mercies of God that He deals with us in these severe ways. It's for your eternal benefit.*

APPLICATION

Hosea 5:14-15 *God said, "I will tear them and go away"! and then I'll go away and I'll just wait until the day comes, when they seek my face".*

It is interesting that when Jesus was talking to the Pharisees, He said, "I came in my Father's name and you did not receive Me. Another will come in his own name, and him you will receive". Then He declared, "You're not going to see me again until you say, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord". There has to be that confession. "God we have offended you. We've, turned against You. We've sinned against You." And there will come a day, they haven't seen the worst of the persecution yet. There will come a day, when they say, "Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord", and then Jesus will return to establish the kingdom of God.

Hosea 6:2 *The Bible says that, "A day is as a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is as a day". So, "2,000 years He will revive us: and in the 3,000th year, He will raise us up". The interesting thing is that from the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, by Titus and the Roman troops, in 70AD, it was just about 2,000 years that Israel was dispersed and scattered throughout the world. "But after the 2,000 years, or the two days, He will revive us."*

It is interesting that it was 2,000 years from the time of their destruction, to the time of their reviving, and in the 3,000th year, or in the millennium, the third day, He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight." We're getting close to that millennial reign of Christ! The Biblical prophecies are predicated upon 360 day years. Surely that cannot be literal days, because it didn't happen in two days, it happened in 2,000 years. "And on the third day, He will raise us up, and we will live in His sight. We'll be restored by God." God will take them back as, as Hosea took back his wife, and be restored to that relationship with God. "Live in His sight."

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OBSERVATION

Hos 6:2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up. That we may live in His sight.

Hos 6:3 Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

Hos 6:4 "O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away.

Hos 6:5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth.

Hos 6:6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Hos 6:7 "But like men they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me.

Hos 6:8 Gilead is a city of evildoers And defiled with blood.

Hos 6:9 As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, So the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; Surely they commit lewdness.

Hos 6:10 I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: There is the harlotry of Ephraim; Israel is defiled.

Hos 6:11 Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, When I return the captives of My people.

O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO

1. *O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*
2. *O light that foll'west all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*
3. *O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.*

INTERPRETATION

v. 2 Surely that cannot be literal days, because it didn't happen in two days, it happened in 2,000 years. *on the third day*, He will raise us up, and we will live in His sight. We'll be restored by God." God will take them back as, as Hosea took back his wife, and be restored with Him.

v. 3 *Know* - What worship He requires. *Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord* It shall be to us a spring of all holy, righteous, sober conversation. *pursue* - By a diligent attendance to the word, and works of God, we shall know experimentally, how holy, how good, how faithful God is. *His going forth* - Before His people; His gracious, faithful, holy, just, and wise providence, for his peoples good and comfort.

v. 4 What shall I do - What shall I do more to save you from ruin, and save my own honor, truth, and justice?

v. 5 God says, "I've hewn them by the prophets."—they have been faithful in telling it like it is—but you have not listened to them." And in our day, although there is a great interest in and turning to the Word of God, we wonder how much of it has really transformed the hearts and lives of those who hear.

v. 6 *I desire mercy, and not sacrifice* - I taught them righteousness by my prophets; for I desired mercy. I was more willing to save than to destroy; and would rather see them full of penitent and holy resolutions, than behold them offering the best and most numerous victims upon my altar.

v. 7 *The covenant* - The law of their God. There - In that very place, the good land which by covenant I gave them: they have broken my covenant.

v. 8 *Gilead is a city* - A city full of notorious transgressors, the inhabitants though Levites and priests, work all manner of wickedness. With blood - Murders committed there..

v. 9 *The company of priests* - The priests by companies lay wait, and rob, and murder, just like a band of robbers. The whoredom - Idolatry.

v. 10 *Of Ephraim* - Which was brought in by an Ephraimite, by Jeroboam, two hundred years ago, and is there still. Israel is defiled - It hath overspread all Israel. He - But God hath appointed an harvest for thee; thou shalt not as Israel be cut off; a seed of thee shall be sowed, and thou shalt reap the harvest with joy.

v. 11 *O Judah* - But God hath appointed an harvest for Judah; You shalt not as Israel be cut off; a seed of you shall be sowed, and you shall reap the harvest with joy.

APPLICATION

Hosea 6:4 *O Ephraim*, God's heart is revealed. It says that He does not really punish willingly. **He's reluctant. He does everything to keep from having to be severe.** "**O Ephraim**", *what shall I do unto you? O Judah, what shall I do unto you?*

For God declares **I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings** (6:4-6). **God wants your heart to be open to Him. He wants you to be merciful, and He wants you to know Him. The knowledge of God is more important than burnt offerings.**

SUMMARY: - So the prophecies of Hosea. Heavy, heavy, as God pronounces the judgments that are coming upon the people. Now there are tremendous parallels between Israel, and the United States, because God established the nation of Israel, and God blessed them. They sought God, they put God at the heart of the nation, they were blessed. But, in time, in their prosperity, they forgot God, they turned their backs on God, and there was no knowledge of God in the land. They were perverse, and the land was filled with violence, stealing, cheating, lying, gang warfare. God allowed them to be destroyed. The United States was established by God. They established our nation on a foundation of God's word. They sought God. God blessed our nation, God made our nation strong. But we're following the same path. In our prosperity, we've turned our backs on God. No mercy, no truth, no knowledge of God. We're following the same pattern. And, that is why these prophecies are so relevant to us today, because we are in that very place that Israel was in, when Hosea was prophesying, and telling them the inevitable consequences of the path that they had chosen to walk. This path that you've chosen is going to lead to destruction, and the path that the United States has chosen, will lead to destruction. Thus, these prophecies become very relevant to us in these days. Because you can see the same parallels here today. It behooves each of us, these days, to live our lives completely and fully, for Jesus Christ. This present world system is rapidly passing away. **You dare not put all of your values in the worldly material things. It's rapidly passing. Put your values in spiritual things. Start living in the Spirit, and walking after the Spirit, like never before. Start seeking the face of God. The world is ripe for judgment. The Great Tribulation period could begin at most any time.**