



Sunday June 12, 2022
Hosea – The Faithfulness of God

THE PROPHET HOSEA

Hosea means salvation. The prophet Hosea lived sometime around the eight century B.C. and the book was written around 781-711 B.C. During this time Israel as a nation was divided into the northern kingdom of Israel (addressed as Israel, Jacob or Ephraim in Hosea), and the southern kingdom of Judah. In Hosea 1:1, the prophet identified the kings that ruled during his prophetic ministry. The first four—Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah—reigned over the southern kingdom of Judah from 790 BC to 686 BC, while Jeroboam II ruled the northern kingdom of Israel from 782 BC to 753 BC. This indicates that Hosea lived in the middle to late eighth century BC (possibly 755–715 BC), making him a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah and Micah. Hosea directed much of his early prophecies toward Jeroboam and the northern kingdom, making it likely that he lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. Israel fought many wars with the Assyrians and the Israelite kings made numerous treaties with Egypt and Assyria, during this time period.

As instructed by God, Hosea married a woman named Gomer, whom God referred to as “a wife of harlotry” (Hosea 1:2). This marriage is a symbol of the covenant between the Lord and Israel. Interestingly, the New Testament uses marriage to describe the union between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:25). Hosea and Gomer had three children, two sons and a daughter (1:4,6,9), whose names were specific messages of judgment to the people of Israel. After having children Gomer, would break covenant and go after old lovers. Hosea was instructed by God to buy her back as his wife, redeeming her to himself again, and to make a contract that she would never wander away again (3:1-3). This was a message that God was speaking to His people.

In this case, we see God using Hosea's personal life, his marriage and family as a "prophetic sign" or "prophetic message" to the nation of Israel. (As a point of contrast in the ministry of the prophet Ezekiel, God used pantomimes or dramatic actions to convey prophetic messages).

Just as a side note: God can speak prophetic messages to us through prophetic signs He places in or around us through people, through circumstances or through creation. However, please DO NOT read a meaning or message into everything that happens around you. Be watchful. Be alert. Listen to the Holy Spirit who will let you know that something is a "prophetic message" from God to you.



THIS PHASE OF ISRAEL'S JOURNEY – WANDERING AWAY FROM GOD

During this time, that is the around the eight century BC, Israel (both the northern and southern kingdom) has wandered away from God.

God referred to this as harlotry or spiritual adultery.

Israel sinned against God and broke covenant by: (A) depending on their own military strength, (B) making treaties with foreign powers (Assyria and Egypt), and (C) by going after other gods, e.g. Baal. Israel thus wandered away from the Lord. This unfaithful behavior brought about Israel's destruction by Assyria. However, God's affirms His faithful love towards His people that will bring healing, restoration, and renewal.

Hosea 1:2

When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the LORD."

It is interesting to see what spiritual harlotry, wandering away from God or departing away from God looks like:

- A, There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land. (Hosea 4:1)
- B, There is a lack of knowledge of God, people reject knowledge which eventually leads to their destruction (Hosea 4:6)
- C, The cease obeying the Lord (Hosea 4:10)
- D, Other things enslave the heart (Hosea 4:11)
- E, They seek guidance from other sources (Hosea 4:12)
- F, They do not turn toward God (Hosea 5:4)

We read about a spirit of harlotry (Hosea 4:12; 5:4) indicating a demonic influence prevailing over the people and influencing such wandering/departing from God.

OUTLINE

In our message today, our focus is not on the wrong the people were doing, nor on the direct prophetic warnings they were given. Instead, we would like to focus on how God dealt with a wandering people. And we will present this from a personal perspective, personalizing this as how God deals with a wandering soul. For, essentially, a nation of people is made up of individual people.

We wish to present an overview of Hosea with the following outline:



- 1) The Call of God To A Wandering Soul: Return, Seek
- 2) The Goodness of God To A Wandering Soul: The Wilderness
- 3) The Heart of God Toward A Wandering Soul: Faithfulness
- 4) The Promise of God To A Wandering Soul: Healing, Restoration, Renewing

1) THE CALL OF GOD TO A WANDERING SOUL: RETURN, SEEK

There are two words that seem to stand out in the book of Hosea: Return, Seek.
Return to God.
Seek God.

Return

Hosea 6:1-3

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.

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

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.

Hosea 14:1-2

1 O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity;

2 Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

God calls out to every person who has wandered away from Him *"Come let us return to the Lord..."*. *"O Israel, return to the LORD your God,...."*

In the New Testament, we are familiar with the term "repent", which is essentially a call to return to the Lord. To change our mind and our action. Instead of wandering away, we intentionally turn toward the Lord and move towards Him.

Seek

Hosea 10:12



Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Not only does God call us to return to Him, He also invites us to seek Him.

To seek is to pursue. To search out, to search for, to find out more, to investigate. You've missed out on something and now you need to go and look more carefully to find out what you missed out.

"It is time...." It is time to seek the LORD. Today, it is time to seek the LORD!

Notice the phrase "...seek the LORD, till He comes..." This means we are doing a casual, half-hearted, lukewarm, "I am being forced to do this...", "let me give this a try..." kind of attitude. It is a desperate, wholehearted, determined, "I have this and nothing else" kind of pursuit of God. Seek Him, till you encounter Him. Seek Him till you meet Him.

God is not hiding from us, rather He is hiding 'for' us. He wants us to meet Him along. Meet Him exclusively. God invites us to seek Him, out of genuine longing for Him.

We have this assurance in Jeremiah 29:13

Jeremiah 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

In Their Affliction

One of the most poignant Scripture texts in Hosea is 5:15

Hosea 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."

God says that He would go back to His place and wait there, till His people recognize their wrongdoing and then seek His face, earnestly seek Him.

In fact, He recognizes that their wrongdoing is going put them into trouble (in Israel's case they would be overpowered by the Assyrians). But He remains in His place, and allows them to go through their trouble, with the hope that "in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me".



Some of our wounds are self-inflicted.

Some of our afflictions are caused by our wrongdoing, our wandering away from God and neglect of His truth in our lives.

But in our affliction, He has not forgotten us. He is waiting for us to seek His face, to earnestly seek Him.

Take words

Hosea 14:1-2

1 O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity;

2 Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

How important are words?

In returning and seeking God, Hosea tells the people to “take words with you, and return to the LORD”. Words, heartfelt words truly express the feelings of our heart to God. Just say what you feel in your heart to God. We do not need any sophisticated, highly complicated words. Just take words. Your own words. Words from your heart and turn to God. He is not asking for money, other material things as a sacrifice. He says bring the sacrifice of your lips – your sincere, genuine, heartfelt words and turn to the Lord.

The truth about the “sacrifice of our lips” is seen in the New Testament in the context of praise and worship (Hebrews 13:15).

2) THE GOODNESS OF GOD TO A WANDERING SOUL: THE WILDERNESS

The wilderness is an important place in God’s dealings with a wandering soul.

Hosea 2:14

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her.

Often, in our wanderings, we “end up” in the wilderness! God orchestrates our journey, drawing us into such a place.



God draws us into the wilderness, so that He can speak to our hearts.

The wilderness is a place of solitude (left alone with God) so you can be alone with God.
The wilderness is a place of silence (quietness, serenity) so you can listen to God.
The wilderness is a place of separation (complete dependance on God) so you can depend on God alone.
The wilderness is a place of strengthening (God strengthens you. God speaks to your heart) so that everything you have comes from Him alone.

Hosea 9:10

"I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; ...

When you find grapes in the wilderness, it is like finding something delightful, something wonderful in an unlikely place.

Hosea 13:5

I knew you in the wilderness, In the land of great drought.

God is mindful of us in the wilderness. He has not forgotten us.

3) THE HEART OF GOD TOWARD A WANDERING SOUL: FAITHFULNESS

This is the main theme of the book of Hosea.

Hosea 11

Hosea chapter 11 is the pivotal chapter in this book. A powerful description of God's heart towards His people, even in their wanderings. Try to feel the heart of God expressed in this chapter.

Let's look at this verse by verse.

Hosea 11:1-12

1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

God loved Israel from the very beginning.
We also are aware that this speaks prophetically about Jesus (Matthew 2:15) being preserved in Egypt from Herod.



2 As they called them, So they went from them; They sacrificed to the Baals, And burned incense to carved images.

3 "I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them.

4 I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them.

5 "He shall not return to the land of Egypt; But the Assyrian shall be his king, Because they refused to repent.

6 And the sword shall slash in his cities, Devour his districts, And consume them, Because of their own counsels.

7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.

These verses describe how God dealt so lovingly with His people and yet the people have wandered away from God.

8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I set you like Zeboiim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.

Admah and Zeboiim were cities that were destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 14:28; Deuteronomy 29:23). Feel what God is saying here. *"How can I give you up...how can I hand you over....my heart churns...my sympathy is stirred"*

Listen to how some modern versions render the last part of this verse:

CEV: *I just can't do it. My feelings for you are much too strong.*

ESV: *My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.*

MSG: *I can't bear to even think such thoughts. My insides churn in protest.*

GNB: *My heart will not let me do it! My love for you is too strong.*

Imagine God speaking this to you and me, despite of our failings, our wanderings, our times of departure from God!

9 I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I am God, and not man, The Holy One in your midst; And I will not come with terror.

Notice how God says, the reason He will not execute fierceness or destruction, because "I am God, and not man". This is who God is. This is His nature. To love unconditionally. To be faithful in love. To be unwavering in His covenant.



10 "They shall walk after the LORD. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, Then His sons shall come trembling from the west;

"...when He roars, then His sons shall come..."

For the lion to roar is a picture of expressing, exhibiting, or exerting authority, dominion. The Lord will roar. The Lord will display His greatness. This will cause His dominion, power, authority to be known. This will draw His children back to Himself. He will gather them back from Egypt and the land of Assyria (modern day Iraq).

11 They shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt, Like a dove from the land of Assyria. And I will let them dwell in their houses," Says the LORD.

12 "Ephraim has encircled Me with lies, And the house of Israel with deceit; But Judah still walks with God, Even with the Holy One who is faithful.

What stands out is that even though His own people have walked in lies and deceit, God remains *"the Holy One who is faithful"*.

He is the Holy one who is faithful! Hallelujah!

This is the heart of God to a wandering soul. God still remains faithful.

The apostle Paul wrote in the New Testament:

2 Timothy 2:13

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

He is God. His nature is to be faithful. He cannot go against Himself, even when we are faithless or wandering. He remains faithful.

4) THE PROMISE OF GOD TO A WANDERING SOUL: HEALING, RESTORATION, RENEWING

In Hosea, not only does God declaring His unwavering love and faithfulness to His people, but He declares in no uncertain terms His promise to heal, restore and renew.

We read about this in Hosea 14.



Hosea 14

Hosea 14:1-9

1 O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity;

2 Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

3 Assyria shall not save us, We will not ride on horses, Nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, 'You are our gods.' For in You the fatherless finds mercy."

He calls His people to express with words their returning to the Lord and renouncing all dependance on Assyria or Egypt, or their own strength and might, or any trust in other gods.

Here are His amazing promises, to His people:

4 "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.

5 I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, And lengthen his roots like Lebanon.

6 His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon.

7 Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

8 "Ephraim shall say, 'What have I to do anymore with idols?' I have heard and observed him. I am like a green cypress tree; Your fruit is found in Me."

9 Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right; The righteous walk in them, But transgressors stumble in them.

What an amazing list of promises to heal, renew, restore.

God will do the same for us, to us, in us and through us today, as we return to Him.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

We are not presenting this message today, as though all of us have wandered away from God and been unfaithful.



The fact is that most of us present here love God and are pursuing God the best we can. Yet, if we feel that in some way we have failed, been unfaithful or not lived up to what God would have desired of us, today, we are reminded and assured once again of who our God is: ***He is God, the Holy One who is faithful, always faithful to His covenant people.***

There may be some of us who may have backslid and wandered away from God. We may have wandered away from our first love, and become weak in our devotion to God. The things of the world may have got the better of us. Our love for God, His Word and His people may have grown cold. Today, the call come to you, to return, to seek the Lord. He remains faithful to you.

To all of us, the promises of God are true today:

If we return, He will come to us.

If we seek Him, we will encounter Him.

He will heal us, restore us, renew us and in Him we will be fruitful.

FOLLOWING GOD IN HIS WAYS

The book of Hosea closes with this wonderful Scripture:

Hosea 14:9

Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right; The righteous walk in them, But transgressors stumble in them.

The book of Hosea reveals to us the ways of the LORD.

We are to walk in the ways of the Lord.

This means that we need to reflect and embody the heart of God to those around us, specifically to those who may be in a phase of life, where they tend to be wandering away from God.

Do you know someone like that?

Would you do what God would do for them?

Pray for them. Believe God for them.



While Hosea has strong messages of warning and impending judgment, upon Israel, Hosea has a powerful prophetic message of God's unfailing faithfulness to Israel as a nation.

The theme of Hosea could be summed up by two words: ***Lo-ammī***, meaning "not My people," and ***Ammī***, meaning "My people" (Hosea 1:9; Hosea 2:1). This text is quoted often in the New Testament (in Romans 9:25-26; 1 Peter 2:10). The faithfulness of God to His people, so strong, so unfailing, that even if they behave as not His, He never changes and He calls them to come and be His people.

2 Timothy 2:13

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

REVIEW

The Call of God To A Wandering Soul: Return, Seek

The Goodness of God To A Wandering Soul: The Wilderness

The Heart of God Toward A Wandering Soul: Faithfulness

The Promise of God To A Wandering Soul: Healing, Restoration, Renewing

SALVATION CALL (BY YOUR FREE CHOICE AND FREE WILL)

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12

If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6

If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12

If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12

If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads




LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE


Sunday June 12, 2022
Hosea – The Faithfulness of God

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture reference: *Hosea 11, Hosea 14*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Based on Hosea 11, what can we learn about the heart of God for His people, from this chapter.

2, Based on Hosea 14, what are the promises of God to those who return to Him?

3, Hosea 14:9 calls us to wisdom and prudence. To understand the ways of God and to walk in His ways. What are some points of personal application, that is how can you "walk in His ways" based on what we have learnt from the book of Hosea?



If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The book of Hosea powerfully unveils the heart of God towards His people. The study in the book of Hosea helps us understand how God deals with us, in our times of wandering, weakness, unfaithfulness and how He draws us back to Himself. Hosea reveals God the Holy one who is faithful to His covenant people. This book enables us to see the promises of God to heal, restore and renew those who return to Him.

KEYWORDS :

Hosea, book of Hosea, Gomer, the faithfulness of God, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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