

HOSEA – (Part 3)



READING:

Hosea 14 v 1 - 9

Overview of the Book of Hosea

- Part 1 – the prophet's married life
- Part 2 – Israel's unfaithfulness and God's judgement on them
- Part 3 – Israel's conservation and renewal



RECAP

- Hosea ministers in the time of the divided kingdom. He ministers to the northern kingdom.
- The Kingdom of Israel got this way due to the people's rebellion under Rehoboam after Solomon died.
- He is the last prophet to the northern kingdom.
- The northern kingdom was enjoying a time of prosperity while going through a time of immorality.
- Hosea famously used his marriage as an illustration to demonstrate the people's unfaithfulness.
- The northern kingdom lasted for about 210 years until the Assyrian conquest and the southern kingdom lasted 325 years.
- **(2 Kings 19 v 35)** God saved the southern kingdom when he sent an angel into the Assyrian camp.
- Judah had one dynasty vs Israel's nine.
- Unlike Judah, Israel's kings only go from bad to worse.

- Up to chapter 13 Hosea deals with God's case against Israel. (Preachers have drawn parallels to modern times)
- The name of the tribe of Ephraim is used to represent the northern state of Israel when Hosea speaks.
- "...his seed shall become a multitude of nations..." (Gen 48 v 19) The capital of Ephraim was Samaria and roughly covers the area of Nazareth and Galilee.
- Israel was not restored like the southern kingdom who came back from captivity in Babylon – because of God's promise to King David.
- The surviving Israelites mainly came from and lived in Judea – that's why the Israelites came to be called Jews.
- By the time of the New Testament, we are left with Samaritans and Jews.
- The coming conquest from Assyria hangs heavy over this prophet's writings.

- The prophecy of Israel's restoration starts off very slowly and subtly from Chapter 10.
- Chapter 10 is also arguably the peak of God's judgement against the nation. (Hosea 10 v 8) "They shall say to the mountains, cover us, and to the hills, fall on us."
- But it starts to turn with (Hosea 10 v 12) "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap steadfast love, break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you."
- From Chapter 11 we see a definite softening of God's approach to Israel. Consider the contrast between verses 5 "They shall return to the land of Egypt..." and verses 8 & 9 "How can I give you up Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? ...My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger. I will not again destroy Ephraim..."

- God promises not to take Israel into captivity in Egypt again. Like God promises never to bring a flood again.
- God refers to Israel, as a whole, as “My son.” The Old Testament understanding of God as a father is as a father of the whole nation – not like the personal understanding like we have in the New Testament.
- **(Hosea 11 v 1)** “When Israel was a child, I loved him.”
- “...and out of Egypt I called my son.”
- Even amidst this heavy judgement, God’s loving nature shines through.
- Everything that befell Israel was for their instruction.
- The father figure and use of discipline for the purpose of instruction shows us God’s heart can be troubled.
- You cannot find any other religion where a god suffers because of, let alone, with his people.

Chapter 14

- (Hosea 14 v 1) “Return O Israel to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.” One of the hardest facts of life is for people to realize that many of our problems come from the bad choices we make.
- (Hosea 14 v 2) “Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him, ‘Take away all guilt, accept that which is good, and we will offer you the fruit of our lips.’”
 - a) Take words: People are in bad need of being educated in the word of God today. People are simply in bad need of education.
 - b) ‘The fruit of our lips’ = blessing. Words today are more commonly used for impurity and other blasphemy. Some versions say ‘calves of our lips’.

- (Hosea 14 v 3) “Assyria will not saved us...we will say no more ‘Our God’ to the work of our hands...”
 - a) Indeed Assyria conquered them in the **Syro-Ephraimite** War. Interesting how many times Wikipedia references the bible!
 - b) Saying ‘Our God’ to the work of our hands means the worship of hand-made idols.
- (Hosea 14 v 4) “I will heal their disloyalty. I will love them freely for my anger has turned from them” This has always been the highest will of God. In the day of Israel’s repentance, God will do this.
- (Hosea 14 v 5) “I will be like the dew to Israel. He shall blossom like the lily. He shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon.” Here ‘he’ again is a way God refers to Israel as ‘My Son’.

- (Hosea 14 v 6) continues the with the image of the olive tree and suggests the cedars of Lebanon.
- (Hosea 14 v 7) “They shall live beneath my shadow, they shall flourish as a garden, they shall blossom like the vine. Their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.”
 - a) ‘Shadow’ – speaks of God’s protection. How few people today see God as their protector – and what does it mean if you see God as your protector.
 - b) ‘shall flourish as a garden’ – everything from Eden to Gethsemane to the garden tomb. A garden is a controlled and protected place where God grows us.
- (Hosea 14 v 8) “O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like the ever green cypress, your faithfulness comes from me.” That’s the question God is asking everyone on earth. And God’s is saying the source of the nations’ prosperity is Him.

- (Hosea 14 v 9) “Those who are wise understand these things. Those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the Lord are right. And the upright walk by them. But the transgressors stumble in them.”

The threefold lesson of the book of Hosea.

- a) Wisdom and understand start with God and knowing his word. **God's ways are right.**
 - b) ‘...the ways of the Lord are right.’ **And the righteous walk in them and obey them.** ‘And the upright walk by them’ – The just shall live by faith. (Rom 1 v 17) (Gal 3 v 11) (Heb 10 v 38)
 - c) **The rebellious fall and their destruction is a direct result of their disobedience.**
- Let's explore some of the ways (*just the tiniest tip of the iceberg*) God's restoration of Israel is coming about.

Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri



???? - 2006

צעדן הד"ר אל משיח

ידום העסיוניות
אדברי וגורלם

באתי על החופים במחיצת הפרחים השמים
וצחק כדורו

- Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri was probably about the most respected rabbi for the last few centuries – if not more.
- Some sects in Judaism believe that there will be two messiahs:
 - a) Mashiach Ben Yoseph (Son of Joseph)
 - b) Mashiach Ben David (Son of David)
- The Rabbi had been asked about this.
- Rabbi Kaduri wrote a note just before he died and asked for it to be unsealed one year after his death.
 - a. The note states that there is but only one Mashiach/Messiah and his name is: “Yeshoshua”
- What makes the conundrum harder for them is that according to their own traditions, they cannot condemn and talk evil about him after he has been dead for one year.

- In the late 19th Century Queen Victoria of England asked her Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, a question:
 - a) “Mr. Prime Minister, what evidence can you give me of the existence of God?”
 - b) The Prime Minister thought about it. Then replied, “The Jew, Your Majesty.”
- Through Jacob’s blessing to Israel (**Gen 48 v 19**) the tribe of Ephraim was absorbed and taken into the Assyrian empire. From there, the most genetically diverse empire in history scattered them into 3 continents. And left over the Samaritans.
- The Samaritans were the first non-Jews to receive the gospel.
- In 1948, against all the laws of anthropology, Israel reformed into a nation again.

- If God can save the Jews from:

(to name a few)

The Egyptians, The Amalekites, The Edomites, The Amorites, Og, king of Bashan, The Canaanites, The Midianites, The Philistines, The Arameans, The Moabites, The Ammonites, The Assyrians, The Babylonians, Haman the Persian, Those opposed to the rebuilding under Ezra and Nehemiah, The Greeks, The Romans, The period of the Inquisition, The Holocaust, The unbelievable odds they've faced in the wars since 1948. And they've still got the battle of Armageddon to look forward to.

- God has you covered too. (Believe it)

Audio (WMA) and text (PDF) ministry

FREE MINISTRY DOWNLOADS



AUTHOR: Johnray Rennie

- ❑ For more ministry downloads visit:
<http://www.agfbrakpan.co.za/ministry-archives.aspx>
- ❑ For more ministry downloads by Johnray Rennie visit:
<http://www.agfbrakpan.co.za/ministry-archives.aspx?speaker=Johnray%20Rennie>