

HOSEA

Relentless Love

MAJOR LESSONS FROM
THE MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA 1:1

¹The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

HOSEA 1:2

² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.”

HOSEA 4:16

¹⁶ The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer. How then can the Lord pasture them like lambs in a meadow?

HOSEA 6:4

⁴ “What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears.

HOSEA 9:10

¹⁰ . . . But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved.

HOW GOD CHASES

OUR HEARTS...

His hedge

After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD,
his going forth as the dawn,
he will come as the spring rains that water the earth.

What shall we say to him?
What shall we answer him?

Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have slain them by the word of my

mouth,
and my judgment is like a fire that consumes.

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice;
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

But like Adam they transgressed the covenant,
there they dealt faithlessly with me.

Gilgad is a city of evildoers,
tracked with blood.

As robbers lie in wait for a man,
so the priests band together;
they murder on the way to Shechem,
they commit villainy.

but they will not find him;
he has withdrawn from them.
They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD
for they have borne alien children.
Now the new moon shall devour them with
their fields.

Blow the horn in Gibeon,
the trumpet in Ramah;
sound the alarm at Beth-aven,
we follow you, O Benjamin!

Ephraim shall become a desolation
because of his unfaithfulness;
he shall dwell in the land of punishment,
because he has despised my word,<

the princes of Judah have become
like those who move the landmark.
Upon them I will pour out
my wrath like water.

Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,
because he was determined to go after filth.
But I am like a moth to Ephraim,
and like dry rot in the house of Judah.

For I have said, he is sick,
and Judah has despised his word,
therefore Ephraim has rebelled against me,
and sent to the great king in Assyria.

But he is not able to cure you
or heal your wound.

For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
and like a young lion to the house of Judah;
I, even I, will tear and go away;
I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.

Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples;
Ephraim is a cake not turned.

Strangers devour his strength,
and he knows it not;
gray hairs are sprinkled upon him,
and he knows it not.

The pride of Israel testifies to his face,
yet they do not return to the LORD their God,
nor seek him, for all this.

Ephraim is like a dove,
silly and without sense,
calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

As they go, I will spread over them my net;
I will bring them down like birds of the
heavens;

I will discipline them according to the report
made to their congregation.

Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!
Destruction to them, for they have rebelled
against me!

I would redeem them,
but they speak lies against me.

They do not cry to me from the heart,
but they wail upon their beds;
for grain and wine they gash themselves,
they rebel against me.

Although I trained and strengthened their
arms,
yet they devise evil against me.

They return, but not upward;
they are like a treacherous bow;
their princes shall fall by the sword.

HOSEA 2:5–7

⁵ Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’ ⁶ Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she

cannot find her way. ⁷ She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.'

HOW GOD CHASES

OUR HEARTS...

His hiddenness

HOSEA 5:5,6

⁵ Israel's arrogance testifies against them; the Israelites, even Ephraim, stumble in their sin; Judah also stumbles with them. ⁶ When they go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord, they will not find him; he has withdrawn himself from them.

HOW GOD CHASES

OUR HEARTS...

His heart

After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;

his going out is as the dawn;

he will come as the spring rains that water the earth.

What shall we say to him?

What shall we answer him?

Your love is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes early away.

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;

I have slain them by the word of my

mouth,

and my judgment is like a fire.

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice;

the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

But like Adam they transgressed the covenant;

there they dealt faithlessly with me.

Gilgad is a city of evildoers;

tracked with blood.

As robbers lie in wait for a man,

so the priests band together;

they murder on the way to Shechem;

they commit villainy.

but they will not find him;
he has withdrawn from them.
They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD
for they have borne alien children.
Now the new moon shall devour them with
their fields.

Blow the horn in Gibeon;
the trumpet in Ramah;
sound the alarm at Beth-aven;
we follow you, O Benjamin!

Ephraim shall become a desolation
because of his wickedness of punishment.
The princes of Israel
have become like those who move the landmark.

Upon them I will pour out
my wrath like water.

Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,
because he was determined to go after filth.

But I am like a moth to Ephraim;
and like dry rot to the house of Judah.

Ephraim has been told his sickness,
and Judah his wound;

but they have despised his word;
they have despised his voice,
and sent to the great king

But he is not able to cure you
or heal your wound.

For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
and like a young lion to the house of Judah.

I, even I, will tear and go away;
I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.

Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples;
Ephraim is a cake not turned.

Strangers devour his strength,
and he knows it not;

gray hairs are sprinkled upon him,
and he knows it not.

The pride of Israel testifies to his face,
yet they do not return to the LORD their God

nor seek him, for all this.

Ephraim is like a dove,
silly and without sense;

calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

As they go, I will spread over them my net;
I will bring them down like birds of the

heavens;
I will discipline them according to the report
made to their congregation.

Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!
Destruction to them, for they have rebelled

against me!
I would redeem them,
but they speak lies against me.

They do not cry to me from the heart;
but they wail upon their beds;

for grain and wine they gash themselves;
they rebel against me.

Although I trained and strengthened their
arms;

yet they devise evil against me.

They return, but not upward;
they are like a treacherous bow;

their princes shall fall by the sword.

HOSEA 3:1,2

¹ The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” ² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley.

HOSEA 6:1,2

¹ “Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

So here we go....

- After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
- Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.
- What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early.
- Therefore I have hated you by my prophesying;
I have slain them by my word,
because of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.
- For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
- But like Adam they transgressed the covenant,
there they dealt faithlessly with me.
- Gilad is a city of evildoers,
tracked with blood.
- As robbers lie in wait for a man,
so the priests band together;
they murder on the way to Shechem,
they commit villainy.

- but they will not find him;
he has withdrawn from them.
- They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD
for they have borne alien children;
Now the new moon shall devour them with
their fields.
- Blow the horn in Gibeon,
the trumpet in Ramah;
Sound the alarm at Beth-aven,
we follow you, O Benjamin!
- Ephraim shall become a desolation
in the day of punishment,
among the tribes of Israel;
I make known what is sure.
- The princes of Judah have become
like those who move the landmark;
upon them I will pour out
my wrath like water.
- Ephraim has oppressed his people;
he has despised their word;
therefore he will be as detestable as Baal,
because he has forsaken the LORD his God.
- But I will be like a moth to Ephraim,
and he will rot to the house of Judah.
- When Ephraim saw his sickness,
and Judah his wound,
then Ephraim went to Assyria,
and sent to the great king;
But he is not able to cure you
or heal your wound.
- For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
and like a young lion to the house of Judah;
I, even I, will tear and go away;
I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.

- Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples;
Ephraim is a cake not turned.
- Strangers devour his strength,
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gray hairs are sprinkled upon him,
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- The pride of Israel testifies to his face,
yet they do not return to the LORD their God,
nor seek him, for all this.
- Ephraim is like a dove,
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calling to Egypt, going to Assyria,
they will spread over them my net;
I will bring them down like birds of the
heavens.
- I will afflict them according to the report
made to their congregation;
Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!
Destruction to them, for they have rebelled
against me!
I would redeem them,
but they speak lies against me.
- They do not cry to me from the heart,
but they wail upon their beds;
for grain and wine they gash themselves,
they rebel against me.
- Although I trained and strengthened their
arms,
yet they devise evil against me.
- They return, but not upward;
they are like a treacherous bow;
their princes shall fall by the sword.

HOSEA 6:3

³ Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

HOSEA 14:1,2

¹ Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! ² Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: “Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.

HOSEA 14:4,5,7

⁴ “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. ⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. ⁷ . . . they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine—Israel’s fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.