

Hosea 11 - 14
The Lord's Love for Israel
Lesson 6

Using everyday life to illustrate His point, the Lord made three appeals to Israel through the prophet Hosea. In His first appeal He portrayed Israel as an unfaithful wife; in His second, a court scene portrayed the covenant breaker ready to be sentenced. Now, in His third appeal, He portrays Israel as a rebellious child.

Chapter 11

1. In chapter 11, the heart of the Lord for His people Israel is clearly shown. How does He describe Israel? (vs. 1)

2. What happened? (vs. 2)

3. As a parent, He seems to be reflecting back on Israel's childhood (the early days). Make a list of all the things the Lord said He did for Israel? (vs. 3a, 4)

4. And how did the "toddler Israel" respond to his doting father? (vs. 3b)

5. Hosea states again that the Lord said they would be ruled and destroyed by Assyria, yet what is their attitude? (vs. 7)

6. At this point – after scolding, pleading and warning Israel that if they don't repent and if they don't return to Him then He, as a righteous and holy God, must carry out the sentence – there is no change. You can almost hear the pain in the Lord's voice as He shares what is on His heart. From His words in Hosea 11:8, what do you think He is feeling? Please comment.

7. He comes to a decision and then explains why. Please explain what the Lord said. (vs. 9)

8. But He will still carry out His discipline. How does He describe Himself in His role of disciplinarian? (vs. 10a)

9. How does He describe Israel and how they will respond to Him at that time? (vs. 10b, 11)

Israel's Deception & Lies - Chapter 12

10. The Lord declared, "Israel continues to lie and deceive just as their father Jacob had done." Even while he was still in his mother's womb, Jacob had grabbed the heel of his twin brother Esau. Later Jacob lied and deceived his father to steal Esau's birthright. There came a point in Jacob's life when he also struggled with the Lord. What happened on that day? (vs. 4 & 5)

11. Why do you think God reminded Israel of their ancestor Jacob's struggle? (See also Genesis 32:27 & 28)

12. What instructions are given in Hosea 12:6?

13. Then, in 12:9 we come to the familiar words, *"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt."* This phraseology is in the legal language of a covenant or treaty. They identify the speaker as the suzerain or king himself. Therefore, he has power and authority over the vassal (in this case Israel). He then made a declaration, *"I will make you live in tents again as in the days of your appointed feasts."* What was He referring to? (Leviticus 23:41-43)
14. During this time of wickedness, how did the Lord say He spoke to them? (vs. 10-14)

The Lord's Anger Against Israel - Chapter 13

15. The Lord reminded Israel of what she has lost: there was a time that when she spoke, all men trembled, but that is no longer happening. But, she chose to follow the Baals that she had made with her own hands. What were they doing for these idols they had made? (vs. 2)
16. *"But I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt."* Therefore, what does He command? (vs. 4)
17. Why does He say He has the legal right to command this? (vs. 5, 6a)
18. But *"they became proud then they forgot me."* Now their king will treat them differently. What does He describe Himself like at the time He will come to carry out His judgment? (vs. 7, 8)
19. What picture or words does that bring to your mind?
20. God's judgment is given in Hosea 13:9. What does He say will inevitably occur and why? (See also Deuteronomy 33:29)

21. Israel had several turning points in her history of sin. First and foremost was when she went into Baal worship and when she set up the golden calves. At that time these calves were given the title "*the gods who delivered you from Egypt.*" What other event does the Lord point out as leading them away from the Lord? (vs. 10, 11a, see also 1 Samuel 8:4-9)
22. God again pronounced judgment. What did He say this time? (vs. 14e-16)

Repentance Leads to Restoration and Life - Chapter 14

23. Judgment and exile are imminent, but there is still a future hope. God's desire has always been (and always will be) for a personal relationship with His people. What plea does Hosea make in Hosea 14:1 and what does that imply?
24. By what method will it be possible? (vs. 2)
25. What is the difference between the "*return*" in Hosea 14:2 and the "*return*" in Hosea 6:1-3?
26. What else must they acknowledge? (vs. 3)
27. If Israel would sincerely repent and return to the Lord, the Lord made several promises of what life could be like. What does the Lord say He would do? (vs. 4)
28. How would these things benefit Israel? (vs. 5-7)

29. In one or two words, how would you describe the picture given of Israel's future?

30. The name Ephraim means "fruitful" (Genesis 41:52). How does the Lord use his name to make His point? (vs. 8)

31. Hosea concludes his book with what the ancient world sought after most - wisdom. Wisdom was defined as: the art of learning how to succeed in life and to find the essence of life. Where does Hosea say true wisdom is found? (vs. 9)

32. Is the source of wisdom any different today? Please comment