Let Us Return to the LORD

Lesson 10: Hosea 5:1 – 6:3
November 6, 2016
Review

- Setting: 1:1
- First cycle: 1:2 – 2:23
  - Judgment: 1:2 – 9
    - God’s first command to Hosea: 1:2
    - Hosea’s obedience and marriage: 1:3
    - Hosea’s children as symbols of judgment: 1:4 – 9
      - Jezreel: 1:4 – 5
      - No Mercy: 1:6 – 7
      - Not My People: 1:8 – 9
Review

• Setting: 1:1

• First cycle: 1:2 – 2:23
  – Judgment: 1:2 – 9
  – Restoration: 1:10 – 2:23
    • Undoing of children’s names: 1:10 – 2:1
    • Rebuke of the adulteress: 2:2 – 13
    • God’s plan to turn Israel back to Him: 2:14 – 15
    • True betrothal to God: 2:16 – 20
    • Undoing of children’s names: 2:21 – 23
Review

• Second cycle: 3:1 – 14:9
  – Redemption: 3:1 – 5
    • God’s second command to Hosea: 3:1
    • Hosea’s obedience, conditions on Gomer: 3:2 – 3
    • The interpretation of Hosea’s act of love: 3:4 – 5
Review

• Second cycle: 3:1 – 14:9
  – Redemption: 3:1 – 5
  – The wilderness and kindness: 4:1 – 14:9
    • The case and judgment against Israel: 4:1 – 3
    • Judgment on the priests: 4:4 – 10
    • An adulterous people: 4:11 – 14
    • The consequences of stubborn harlotry: 4:15 – 19
Key verses

• Theme: Hosea 2:14
  Therefore, behold I will allure her,
  Bring her into the wilderness
  And speak kindly to her.

• Motivation: Hosea 4:16
  Since Israel is stubborn
  Like a stubborn heifer,
  Can the LORD now pasture them
  Like a lamb in a large field?
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## Hapax Legomenon

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Outline

• 5:1 – 3 Ephraim’s ways are not hidden from God
• 5:4 – 7 Hosea’s evaluation of the people
  – 5:4 – 5 Sin prevents turning to the LORD
  – 5:6 – 7 External obedience lead only to destruction
• 5:8 – 15 God’s response to His sinful people
  – 5:8 – 11 The decay of Israel
  – 5:12 – 13 The sickness of Israel
  – 5:14 – 15 The rending of Israel
• 6:1 – 3 Appeal to return to the LORD
Ephraim’s ways are not hidden from God

Hosea 5:1

Hear this, O priests!
Give heed, O house of Israel!
Listen, O house of the king!

For the judgment applies to you,
For you have been a snare at Mizpah
And a net spread out on Tabor.

- The Lord is speaking
- Who is being rebuked?
- Sinners snare others to sin
- Mizpah
  - Gilead Genesis 31:49
  - By Mt. Hermon Joshua 11:3
  - Benjamin 1 Samuel 7:16
- Tabor
  - Mt. in Issachar Josh. 19:22
  - Zebulun 1 Chron. 6:77
  - Benjamin 1 Samuel 10:3
Ephraim’s ways are not hidden from God

Hosea 5:2
The revolters have gone deep in depravity,
But I will chastise all of them.

- “depravity”
  - KJV “make slaughter”
  - NIV “slaughter”
  - ESV “slaughter”
  - NET “slaughter”
- Committed to their sin
- None will escape judgment
Ephraim’s ways are not hidden from God

Hosea 5:3
I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me;

For now, O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself

• Israel doesn’t know God, but God knows Israel

• Harlotry
  – Physical
  – Spiritual
Hosea’s evaluation of the people

Hosea 5:4
Their deeds will not allow them
To return to their God.
For a spirit of harlotry is within them,
And they do not know the Lord.

- Sin prevents repentance
- Deeds come from the spirit
  — Being vs. doing
- Reasons for inability
  — Spirit of harlotry
  — They do not know the Lord
Hosea’s evaluation of the people

Hosea 5:5

Moreover, the pride of Israel testifies against him,
And Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity;

Judah also has stumbled with them.

• Pride called as a witness
  – Also Amos 8:7
• Sin weakens us
• Judah also is rebuked several times by Hosea
Hosea’s evaluation of the people

Hosea 5:6
They will go with their flocks and herds
To seek the Lord,
but they will not find Him;
He has withdrawn from them.

• False return
  – *Only* with flocks and herds
  – “my first husband” (2:7)
• God is found by those truly seeking
• What does God want more than sacrifices (6:6)
  – Mercy
  – Knowledge of God
Hosea’s evaluation of the people

Hosea 5:7

They have dealt treacherously against the Lord,
For they have borne illegitimate children.

Now the new moon will devour them with their land.

- Betrayal of their husband
- “strange sons”
- Sin impacts the land also
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:8
Blow the horn in Gibeah,
The trumpet in Ramah.
Sound an alarm at Beth-aven:
“Behind you, Benjamin!”

• Attack or defense?
• Beth Aven
  – Joshua 7:2, 18:12
  – 1 Samuel 13:5, 14:23
  – Amos 1:5 (Aven)
• “Behind you”
  – KJV “after thee”
  – NIV “lead on”
  – ESV “we follow you”
  – NET “tremble in fear”
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:9
Ephraim will become a desolation in the day of rebuke;
Among the tribes of Israel I declare what is sure.

- Judgment is coming
- Tribes of Israel is archaic
- “I” – the prophet or God?
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:10
The princes of Judah have become like those who move a boundary;
On them I will pour out My wrath like water.

• Another judgment on Judah
• Did they move a boundary?
• Spiritual boundaries
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:11
Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,
Because he was determined to follow man’s command.

• “Man’s command”
  – KJV “the commandment”
  – NIV “idols”
  – ESV “filth”
  – NET “worthless idols”
  – LXX “vanity” (hence idols)

• Whose command
  – Assyria
  – Jeroboam I
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:12
Therefore I am like a moth to Ephraim
And like rottenness to the house of Judah.

• Strange analogy for God’s strange work (Is. 28:21)
• “Moth”
  – Maggot
  – Pus
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:13

When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah his wound,

Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb.

But he is unable to heal you, Or to cure you of your wound.

• The wound is observed
• Help sought from Assyria
• Inability of Assyria
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 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 to pieces and go away,
I will carry away,
and there will be none to deliver.

• Swift, violent destruction
  — Physical, Assyria
  — Spiritual, prophets (6:5)

• None can deliver from God
God’s response to His sinful people

Hosea 5:15
I will go away and return to My place
Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face;
In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

- Temporary withdrawal
- Conditions for return
  - Acknowledgement of guilt
  - Seeking the LORD
- Same situation in 5:6
  - The LORD had withdrawn
  - They sought the LORD
God’s ways and our ways

• Are we to imitate God in all things?
• What is our response to sinners?
• We are not to pay back sins (Rom. 12:17-21)
• Our response
  – Pray (Matthew 5:43-45)
  – Lovingly bring God’s word without compromise (Hosea 6:5)
Appeal to return to the LORD

Hosea 6:1

“Come, let us return to the Lord.

For He has torn us,
but He will heal us;

He has wounded us,
but He will bandage us.

• Who is the speaker?
  — The people
  — Hosea

• Suffering will have the intended result

• Connecting words
  — KJV: and
  — NIV: but
  — ESV: that, and
  — NET: but
Return

• Turn from
  – Spirit of harlotry (Hosea 5:3)

• Turn to
  – The LORD (Hosea 6:1, 14:2)

• Reason to return
  – He will heal, He will bandage (Hosea 6:1)
Appeal to return to the LORD

Hosea 6:2

“He will revive us after two days;  
He will raise us up on the third day,

That we may live before Him.

• Restoration from the moth and lion  
• Short period of time  
• The purpose
Appeal to return to the LORD

Hosea 6:3

“So let us know,
let us press on to know the Lord.
His going forth is as certain as the
dawn;
And He will come to us like the rain,
Like the spring rain watering the
earth.”

• Continued emphasis on knowing God
• Diligently seek the LORD
• Those who seek will find
Summary

• Our ways are not hidden from God
• Sin prevents turning to the LORD
• External obedience lead to destruction
• God acts so that we will acknowledge our guilt and seek Him
• Return to the LORD