Let Us Return to the LORD

Lesson 15: Hosea 11 – 12

December 11, 2016
Review

• Setting 1:1

• Judgment and redemption for the nation 1:2-2:25
  – Hosea, Gomer, and the children 1:2-9
  – Restoration 2:1-25

• Judgment and redemption for the people 3:1-14:8
  – The future return of the sons of Israel 3:1-5
Review

• Judgment and redemption for the people 3:1-14:8
  – The LORD confronts His people 4:1-5:15
  – Appeal to return to the LORD 6:1-3
  – The people’s evil deeds and their punishment 6:4-10:11
  – Sow righteousness 10:12
  – Compassion in judgment 10:13-12:5
  – Call to return to God 12:6
  – Israel turned from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt 12:7-13:16
  – Call to return to the LORD 14:1-3
  – The restoration God will give 14:4-8

• The ways of the LORD 14:9
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?
Words Only in Hosea

- Lo Ruhama, without compassion
- where
- Beth Arbel, house of God's ambush
- Jareb, let him contend
- Lo Ammi, not my people
- animosity
- to hire
- the wages (of a harlot)
- my Baal
- shame
- to depart, be cured
- Diblaim
-Gift
- This
- jewelry
- fowler, trapper

- scorn
- a dry measure
- Moph (Memphis) ancient capital of Egypt
- adultery
- immodesty, shamelessness
- sorrow, repentance
- iniquity
- be fruitful
- to dry up, shrivel
- destruction
- a trembling
- splinters
- swerver, revolter
- Shalman
- drought
## Key words

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Outline

• 11:1-4  God’s tender love
• 11:5-7  The punishment due Israel
• 11:8-11  God’s compassion
• 11:12-12:1-5  Israel is unlike Israel
  – 11:12-12:1  Ephraim’s deceit
  – 12:2-5  Jacob’s struggle with God
• 12:6  Call to return to God
Outline

• 12:8-15 God’s work through the prophets
  – 12:8-11 Self sufficiency and God’s provision
    • 12:8-9 Ephraim’s boast of wealth
    • 12:10-11 God’s persistence
  – 12:12-14 Israel’s humble beginning
    • 12:12 Israel’s wickedness
    • 12:13-14 Shepherds God has used
  – 12:15 Unfaithfulness will be repaid
God’s tender love
Hosea 11:1
When Israel was a youth I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.

- Third appeal to history
  - 9:10: Exodus and Baal-peor
  - 10:9: Battle of Gibeah
- Israel referred to as son
  - Exodus 4:21-23
  - Isaiah 1:2, 4
- Cited in Matt. 2:15
  - Translates from Hebrew
  - The nature of prophecy
Egypt and Assyria

Hosea 2:17    Egypt
Hosea 5:13    Assyria
Hosea 7:11    Egypt    Assyria
Hosea 8:9     Assyria
Hosea 8:13    Egypt
Hosea 9:3     Egypt    Assyria
Hosea 9:6     Egypt
Hosea 10:6    Assyria
Hosea 11:1    Egypt
Hosea 11:5    Egypt    Assyria
Hosea 11:11   Egypt    Assyria
Hosea 12:2    Egypt    Assyria
Hosea 12:10   Egypt
Hosea 12:14   Egypt
Hosea 13:4    Egypt
Hosea 14:4    Assyria

Total        12    9
God’s tender love  
Hosea 11:2

The more they called them,  
The more they went from them;

They kept sacrificing to the Baals  
And burning incense to idols.

• “they/I”
  – KJV “they called”
  – NIV “I called”
  – ESV “they were called”
  – NET “I summoned”

• Current apostasy started in the exodus

• More than one false god
God’s tender love
Hosea 11:3
Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them in My arms;
But they did not know that I healed them.

• God, not the idols
• “My arms” is emendation
  – “by the arms”
• Another picture in Ez. 16
• The waters of Marah
God’s tender love
Hosea 11:4

I led them with **cords** of a man,
with **bonds** of love,

And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws;

And I bent down and fed them.

- “cords of a man”
  - Man, in contrast to God
  - Human, i.e. gentle
  - Specific man, Moses

- Adjusting of the yoke

- “gently I fed them”
The punishment due Israel
Hosea 11:5
They will not return to the land of Egypt;
But Assyria—he will be their king
Because they refused to return to Me.

• Punishment will not be return to Egypt
• Their desired allies would rule over them
• Exile is justified
The punishment due Israel
Hosea 11:6
The sword will whirl against their cities,
And will demolish their gate bars
And consume them because of their counsels.

- The sword is “in” the cities
- “gate bars” could mean “boasting”
- Judgment is justified
The punishment due Israel
Hosea 11:7

So My people are bent on turning from Me.

Though they call them to the One on high,
None at all exalts Him.

- “bent on turning”
  - KJV “bent to backsliding”
  - NIV “determined to turn”
  - ESV “bent on turning away”
  - NET “obsessed with turning away”

- “call him”

- “to the most high” or “to God on high”
God’s compassion
Hosea 11:8

How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I surrender you, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart is turned over within Me,
All My compassions are kindled.

• Indirect reference to Sodom and Gomorrah
• No complete destruction
• Did God change His mind?
• God’s great love
God’s compassion
Hosea 11:9

I will not execute My fierce anger;
I will not destroy Ephraim again.

For I am God and not man,
the Holy One in your midst,

And I will not come in wrath.

- Sodom’s end would not come to Ephraim
- Holiness brings destruction to sinners
- “wrath/city”
  - KJV “into the city”
  - NIV “in wrath”
  - ESV “in wrath”
  - NET “in wrath”
God’s compassion  
Hosea 11:10

They will walk after the Lord,  
He will roar like a lion;  
Indeed He will roar
And His sons will come trembling from the west.

- Promise of restoration
- Lion picture from 5:14
- New exodus
- Reversal: coming towards a lion
God’s compassion
Hosea 11:11

They will come trembling like birds from Egypt.
And like doves from the land of Assyria;
And I will settle them in their houses, declares the Lord.

• Birds come to the lion
• Return from exile
• The silly dove becomes smart
• God Himself will set them in houses
Israel is unlike Israel
Hosea 11:12

Ephraim surrounds Me with lies
And the house of Israel with deceit;

Judah is also unruly against God,
Even against the Holy One who is faithful.

- Another stark contrast
- Lies/deceit
  - Apostasy
  - Idols
  - Deception
- “Judah...
  - KJV “yet ruleth with God”
  - NIV “is unruly against God”
  - ESV “still walks with God”
  - NET “still roams about with God”
Israel is unlike Israel
Hosea 12:1

Ephraim feeds on wind,
And pursues the east wind continually;
He multiplies lies and violence.

Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria,
And oil is carried to Egypt.

• Futility of their ways
  – Shepherding the wind
• They are not seeking God’s help
Israel is unlike Israel
Hosea 12:2

The Lord also has a dispute with Judah,
And will punish Jacob according to his ways;
He will repay him according to his deeds.

• Judah is also included
• “Dispute” is the same as “case” (4:1)
• Jacob used as a substitute for Israel (cf. Micah 1:5)
• Punishment comes for actions
Israel is unlike Israel
Hosea 12:3

In the womb he took his brother by the heel,
And in his maturity he contended with God.

• Jacob
  – To grasp the heal
  – Figuratively: to deceive

• Contend is only here and in Genesis 32:28
  – “God and with men”

• “Maturity” could be “by his strength”
Israel is unlike Israel
Hosea 12:4

Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed;
He wept and sought His favor.

He found Him at Bethel
And there He spoke with us,

• Genesis mentions a man
  – Peniel – face of God
• Word play with “wrestled with”
• Wept
  – Meeting Esau
  – When thigh dislocated
• Bethel
  – On the way to Haran
  – After leaving Shechem
Israel is unlike Israel
Hosea 12:5

Even the Lord, the God of hosts,
The Lord is His name.

• The LORD made His name known in the exodus

• “His name”
  – His memorial
  – What He is to be remembered by
Call to return to God
Hosea 12:6
Therefore, return to your God,
Observe kindness and justice,
And wait for your God continually.

• KJV “turn thou to thy God”
• NIV “you must return to your God”
• ESV “by the help of your God, return”
• “Kindness” – mercy, hesed
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:7

A merchant, in whose hands are false balances,
He loves to oppress.

• “Merchant” – Canaan
• False balances are for the purpose of oppression
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:8

And Ephraim said, “Surely I have become rich,
I have found wealth for myself;

In all my labors they will find in me
No iniquity, which would be sin.”

• Two interpretations
  – Arrogance
  – Hypocritically

• Not seeking true riches
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:9

But I have been the Lord your God since the land of Egypt;
I will make you live in tents again,
As in the days of the appointed festival.

• The people were forgetful
• An undoing of the exodus
• The Feast of Tabernacles was to remind them of the exodus
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt  
Hosea 12:10

I have also spoken to the prophets,  
And I gave numerous visions,  
And through the prophets I gave parables.

• God and the prophet  
• Various ways were used to speak to the people
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:11

Is there iniquity in Gilead?
Surely they are worthless.

In Gilead they sacrifice bulls,
Yes, their altars are like the stone heaps
Beside the furrows of the field.

• Gilead was possibly near Mizpah
• Gilgal is near Jericho
• “Iniquity” is Aven
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:12

Now Jacob fled to the land of Aram,
And Israel worked for a wife,
And for a wife he kept sheep.

• “field of Aram”
• Jacob was virtually a slave
• “kept” is the same as “observe” in 12:6
• “Sheep” is not in the text
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:13

But by a prophet the Lord brought Israel from Egypt,
And by a prophet he was kept.

- Prophets had been provided since Egypt
- Moses had also been a shepherd
- “Kept” was also used of Jacob
Israel’s departure from the LORD who rescued them from Egypt
Hosea 12:14

Ephraim has provoked to bitter anger;
So his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him
And bring back his reproach to him.

- Blood and oppression have been previously noted
- The sin will remain and be punished
Summary

• God has great compassion
• The nation is unlike Israel
• Return to God
• The LORD has been active among His people since the exodus
• Unfaithfulness will be repaid