



# Pursue Love and Justice

Hosea 11, 12

Adult Church School

June 8, 2020

# Hosea 11:1, 2, 7-10

- 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.
- 2 But as the saying goes, "The more they were called, the more they rebelled." They never stopped offering incense and sacrifices to the idols of Baal.
- 7 My people are determined to reject me for a god they think is stronger, but he can't help. Israel, I can't let you go. I can't give you up.
- 8 How could I possibly destroy you as I did the towns of Admah and Zeboiim? I just can't do it. My feelings for you are much too strong.
- 9 Israel, I won't lose my temper and destroy you again. I am the Holy God—not merely some human, and I won't stay angry.
- 10 I, the LORD, will roar like a lion, and my children will return, trembling from the west.

# Hosea 12:1, 2, 6-14

- 1 All day long Israel chases wind from the desert; deceit and violence are found everywhere. Treaties are made with Assyria; olive oil is taken to Egypt.
- 2 The LORD also brings charges against the people of Judah, the descendants of Jacob. He will punish them for what they have done.
- 6 So return to your God. Patiently trust him, and show love and justice.
- 7 Israel, you enjoy cheating and taking advantage of others.
- 8 You say to yourself, "I'm rich! I earned it all on my own, without committing a sin."

# Hosea 12:9-14

<sup>9</sup> Israel, I, the LORD, am still your God, just as I have been since the time you were in Egypt. Now I will force you to live in tents once again, as you did in the desert.

<sup>10</sup> I spoke to the prophets— often I spoke in visions. And so, I will send my prophets with messages of doom.

<sup>11</sup> Gilead is terribly sinful and will end up ruined. Bulls are sacrificed in Gilgal on altars made of stones, but those stones will be scattered in every field.

<sup>12</sup> Jacob escaped to Syria where he tended sheep to earn himself a wife.

<sup>13</sup> I sent the prophet Moses to lead Israel from Egypt and to keep them safe.

<sup>14</sup> Israel, I will make you pay for your terrible sins and for insulting me.

# Hosea

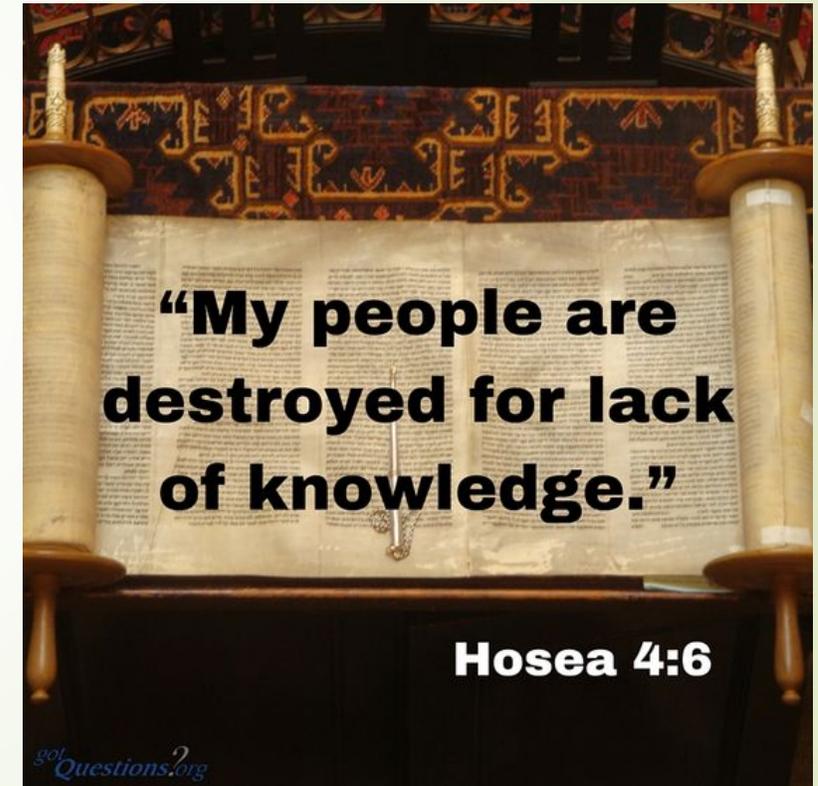
- The book of **Hosea** stands first among the **Twelve Minor Prophets**.
- It announces the first indictment and sentence of the broken **covenant with God**.
- **Hosea** prophesied to the people of the **Northern Kingdom** (Israel)
- His prophesy occurred during the rise of the **Assyrian** power and the threat against **Israel**.
- The book is divided into 3 sections:
  1. The **husband** and **wife** metaphor (chap. 1-3)
  2. **Israel's worship** of illicit gods figuratively as *adultery*
  3. The **parent/child** relationship metaphor for the **God/Israel** (chap. 11)

# Group Chat

- ▶ How would you describe your relationship with God?

# Hosea the Prophet

- ▶ **Hosea's** name means "*salvation*"
- ▶ He was told by God to marry a wife, **Gomer** who became immoral.
- ▶ **Gomer** came to symbolize **Israel**.
- ▶ **Gomer** committed great whoredom when she departed from **Hosea** and took on many lovers.
- ▶ **Israel** likewise committed whoredom in worshipping other gods.



# The Indictment and Sentence From God

## A Call to Court

“**The Lord** has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land (4:1)

## The Indictment

- There is **no faithfulness or loyalty**,
- **no knowledge of God** in the land. (6:1-5)
- **Insincerity in faith practice** – an abomination before Jehovah (ch.6)
- **Moral corruption in everyday life.** (4:1-5)
- **Swearing, lying, and murder, and stealing and adultery**
- **Immoral religious practices** (11:14)
- **Ingratitude** . Refused to recognize God as the source of blessings ( 2 &11)

# The Indictment and Sentence From God

## The Sentence

- ▶ **Jacob** will be punished according to his ways
- ▶ The people will be carried away. The **land will mourn**
- ▶ **God** will make you live in tents again

## Repent

- ▶ Return to **God**
- ▶ Maintain **love and justice**
- ▶ Wait for **God** always

## Restoration

- ▶ They will follow the **Lord**
- ▶ The **Lord** will roar like a lion and His children will come from the west

# Father and Son Relationship (chap. 11)

## Israel's Ingratitude

- ▶ When **Israel** was a child, **God** called him out of Egypt.
- ▶ The more **God** blessed them, the more they sinned.
- ▶ **He** took them into His arms and healed their hurts
- ▶ **God** taught them how to walk
- ▶ The child is *ungrateful*, not acknowledging the parent's care.
- ▶ **Ephraim** is full of lies and deceit.

## The Loving Parent

- ▶ The **Lord** agonizes over the coming punishment. He asks "*How can I give up, Ephraim? How can I hand over, Israel?*"
- ▶ **God's** nature is shown: "*I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst.*" God's compassion tempers His anger.

# Group Chat

- ▶ How has God's relationship to Israel been a model for His relationship with African American?, America? You personally?

# God Is Not Finished Yet! (Chap. 12)

## "Chips off the Old Block"

- ▶ Israel's character is similar to its' ancestor **Jacob**.
- ▶ Like Jacob, **Israel** is self-centered and contentious

## Reconciliation (v. 9,10)

Return to the **God** of your father, Jacob.

Maintain love and justice

Wait for your **God** always.

**God** will make them live in tents again. **God** is not through with you yet.

# Group Chat

- ▶ To bring people back to Him, God will send them through a wilderness experience again. Have you gone through a wilderness experience?
- ▶ If so, what are some of the things you learned about God and yourself in this experience?