

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 14:1-9

- Thomas Jefferson wrote 1785 > **“Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just”**, he wrote these words about the United States of America knowing that God’s justice will not be held back forever, and that Divine justice would eventually hold the United States accountable for their injustices.
- No one knew this better than the Prophet Hosea, who threw his bitter experience with his unfaithful wife, he understood how sin not only breaks the heart of God, but also offends the Holiness of God, for Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of His Throne > **Ps 89:14**. Now after thirty years of preaching the Assyrians are knocking on the door of The Northern Kingdom’s gate, as payment of sin is now due.

V1-9

- **V1-3** despite all of the rebellion, idolatry, immorality, and stubbornness, God wanted to forgive the sins of His people and restore their fellowship with Him. But at this point they had not repented yet, neither had they even acknowledged that they had even sinned. **8:7- “they sowed to the wind, and reap the whirlwind”**, meaning when people pursue foolish and empty actions, they will face amplified and destructive consequences, that in the natural resemble a tornado heading your way.
- In **10:13- “You have plowed wickedness; You have reaped iniquity”**. When you plant seeds of rebellion against God and His Word, the results that you’ll receive will not be a ripe crop but rotten fruit. **V1** Hosea implores Israel to return to The Lord, as because of their iniquity they had stumbled and fell, and folks that is always the case when we attempt to do things our way instead of The Lord’s way.
- But something very important for us to take note of, if Israel was to return to The Lord, it had to be on God’s terms, not their own. For The Lord says **“when you return to Me, take words with you”**, meaning don’t try and come silently thinking God knows my heart, I don’t need to say anything, but bring proper words of repentance.

- This shows that the worship of God is intelligent, He has made us able to communicate idea and feelings with words, so it isn't enough to sit before The Lord and feel love towards Him, instead we are to take words with us and give them to Him. So I just don't feel like I love The Lord, I tell God that I love Him, it isn't enough to feel repentant toward The Lord, you tell God that you've repented.
- Its like a parent never telling their child they love them but saying they know, I show them everyday by putting a roof over their heads, having food in the house, clothes on their back. But I don't use words to express how I feel about them, so the actions as great as they are still don't take the place of hearing the words out of our mouths.
- **V2** Hosea says “**to offer the sacrifice of our lips**” and in doing so then with your words and actions you renounce your dependence on all other things but The Lord. We are to recognize that The Lord and The Lord alone makes the difference in our life. **V3** says Assyria won't save you, horses won't save you, the false gods that you've made won't save you, only The Lord can save you, and Him alone.
- **V4-7** did you know God restores the penitent to spiritual health, and heals their backsliding > **Jer 14:7-** Israel's iniquities testify against her, in **Hos 13:12** it says her sin had piled up so much that, **Hos 13:9-** says it was destroying them. Yet God says “**He will heal their backsliding**” not because Israel deserved it, but because it is in The Lord's nature to “**love them freely**”, this is absolutely amazing people!
- Look how certain the phrase “**I will heal their backsliding**” not “**I might heal**” “**I could heal**”, or “**I can try to heal**” but “**I will heal their backsliding**”. Come to God for spiritual healing and you'll receive it, God is too Great a Physician to allow any patient to leave His care without being healed, which is why were told to come > **Math 11:28-30-** and you will find rest for your souls, but the key is you must come to Him. In doing so growth, beauty, strength, delight, and abundance is restored.
- Once Israel repents those things that had been taken away God will bless them with again, as they grow like a Lilly, roots lengthen like a tree of Lebanon, beauty like an olive tree, branches spreading, as abundance has returned again, for The Lord has forgiven their trespasses against Him.

- **V8-9** repentance is never just words alone, it always follows with actions, when the people confess their sin before The Lord, and are healed from their backsliding by The Lord, they then follow that with dismissing all the idolatry and sin that had kept them in darkness for all that time. For once the voice of The Lord is heard again in their ears they want nothing more to do with lies and deceit.
- **“What have I to do with idols, Your fruit is found in Me”** I now only want to please The Lord, not myself, or the world, only God. Being restored means being renewed, as Renewed Israel walks in wisdom not rebellion, **“who is wise, let him understand these things” “who is prudent, let him know them”**. **“For the ways of The Lord is right, The righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them”** wow!
- When Christ returns Israel will be revived, restored, and renewed, and God will have fulfilled His promise that He made to them all those centuries in Gen 12 to Abraham. Just like God used Hosea to demonstrate these truths to Israel, He also uses the Church to model His goodness and His grace to a lost and deceived world.