

HOSEA 6:4-11

JUDGMENT, JUDGMENT, JUDGMENT, HOPE!

THOUGHTS ON THE MOSAIC COVENANT

”Covenant” appears four times in Hosea

2:18; 8:1; 10:4; 12:1

Given the context, it is referring to the Mosaic Covenant

God’s first covenant with Adam? Not a bad deal. What could possibly go wrong?

What was the purpose of the Mosaic Covenant?

Bi-lateral (if, then) vs. Lateral agreement

A personal covenant vs. a sacrificial relationship

THOUGHTS ON THE MOSAIC COVENANT

“The Mosaic Law would reveal to people their sinfulness and their need for a savior, and it was the Mosaic Law that Christ Himself said that He did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.” (Moody’s Commentary)

Were the Israelite’s sins revealed?

Yes, but . . .



HOSEA 6:4-11

“O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth. For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. But like men they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt treacherously with Me. Gilead is a city of evildoers and defiled with blood. As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, so the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; surely they commit lewdness. I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the harlotry of Ephraim; Israel is defiled. Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, when I return the captives of My people.”



“O, EPHRAIM!” “O, ISRAEL!” “O, JUDAH!”

Why the use of both Ephraim & Israel?

Who was Ephraim?

When Hosea says “Ephraim,” he often highlights:

- Spiritual pride
- Idolatry
- Political scheming

Covenant unfaithfulness

Examples:

- “Ephraim is joined to idols” (Hos 4:17)
- “When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling...” (Hos 13:1)
- “Ephraim” can carry a more **personal and relational tone**, while “Israel” can sound more covenantal and national.

“O, EPHRAIM!” “O, ISRAEL!” “O, JUDAH!”

Israel: Big picture. The nation.

Ephraim: More personal. Sinful characteristics of the man/tribe

Judah: You aren't much better!

Hosea 5:5

“The pride of **Israel** testifies to his face;
Israel and **Ephraim** shall stumble in his guilt;
Judah also shall stumble with them.”

“O, EPHRAIM!” “O, ISRAEL!” “O, JUDAH!”

Hosea’s language is not random. It reinforces major themes:

Covenant Identity

“Israel” reminds them:

- They are the covenant people
- Named after Jacob
- Bound to Yahweh by divine promise

Moral Accountability

“Ephraim” emphasizes:

- Leadership failure
- Representative guilt
- Corruption from the center outward
- It is both poetic and judicial language.

**“WHAT SHALL I DO
WITH YOU?”**

“WHAT SHALL I DO WITH YOU?”

“Israel’s sins are worse than simply violating the law: they repudiate the *gracious covenant* that is the foundation of their life and hope.”

Robert Vasholz

MY PAUL DAVID TRIPP DIVERSION

“Instruments in the Hands of the Redeemer”

- A must read!
- Tripp’s grace-filled approach to reconciliation.
- Confrontation/Speaking the truth in love “is not so much about punishment, but about gently bringing truth into someone’s life where change is needed.”
- “Compare and Contrast . . .” God’s dealing with the Israelites and how Paul Tripp might deal with them.
- God searches for heart issues. Tripp does the same. “What is the root issue?”

WHAT GOD WANTS WHAT ISRAEL THINKS GOD WANTS

6:6

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God and not burnt offerings.”

“God’s preference is that His people love him faithfully more than they offer Him other types of sacrifices.” Constable



MISGUIDED ACTS OF LOVE

Israel:

Love=more sacrifices

God:

Love=knowing Him more

MISGUIDED ACTS OF LOVE

- “Sacrifices were meaningless, even offensive, unless offered out of a heart of love that demonstrates obedience to God’s Word.”
Constable

APPLICATION

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God and not burnt
offerings.”