

Hosea 11-14 – 5 March 2026

“Return To Me”

Introduction

*The book is answering the question, ‘How does God respond in the face of betrayal?’

*We’re using the imagery of Hosea & his wife Gomer who picture Yahweh & his wife Israel

*Certainly, this applies to us as the unfaithful bride

*In chapters 1-3 we looked at the unfaithful bride’s disposition, dissatisfaction, desertion & disinfection

*In chap 4-7 we saw at the importance of knowing God

*Chap 8-10 demonstrated the trouble of not knowing God

*To conclude the book we’ll see God’s call for them to return to Him and His goodness

*Rather than destroying sinners, He seeks our return for His glory and our good

Today, we see 4 ways in which we must return to God

#1 – Receive God’s love, so we don’t receive of our lusts (Chap 11:1-12:1)

Read 11:1-2

1. Thinking back to the start when God called Israel to leave Egypt to start and identity w/ Him
 - a. Yet they still longed, in heart, for idolatry
2. There’s a dual fulfillment here – Matt (2:15) uses this vs 1 to speak of Jesus coming out of Egypt after Herod began killing all the babies

Read 11:3-4

1. As if coming to an orphaned child, God describes His love for Israel in the beginning
2. We need to think back to how God deserves credit for drawing us into new life & sustainment

Read 11:5-7

1. “B/c they refused to return to Me”
 - a. They used their new freedoms & provision God gave for the lusts of the flesh
 - b. Then when God called, they refused to return to Him

- c. Though the prophets & the H.S. are calling them to return they chose not to return
2. Therefore, they'll go into new tragedy in Assyria

Read 11:8-9

1. Admah & Zeboiim are cities that had surrounded Sodom & Gomorrah
2. Though judgement's coming thru Assyria, God can't cast away & destroy Israel, for His great love
3. "He's God & not a man"
 - a. When God commits to bringing someone to the end – He keeps His promises
 - b. Men go back on their word – God doesn't

Read 11:10-11

1. After the time of dispersion, Israel will be regathered as they return trembling
 - a. This began in the 1900s & the re-creation of Israel in 1948 – and continues thru today
 - b. It happened not by their might, but b/c God *roared*

Read 11:12 & 12:1

1. If you take this chronologically – after their regathering – this speak of even Israel today
 - a. They're still full of deceit
 - b. They still trust in alliances instead of God
2. “Judah is unruly” – Need to know the Hb here
 - a. He begins to equate Judah with Israel now
 - b. This pictures all Israel after their regathering

#2 – Reap God's provision, so we don't remain in poverty (Chap 12:2-14)

Read 12:2

1. God here uses the man Jacob (renamed Israel) to portray the whole nation of Israel and Judah

Read 12:3-4a

1. Make no mistake, the one Jacob wrestled with was a Christophany, not just an angel

Read 12:4b-6

1. Just as Jacob, ran from then wrestled with God to return, so too Israel is called to return

Read 12:7-11

1. Israel likes to lie in business and think it's their cunning that gives them the financial gain
 - a. But it's God that blessed them w/ provision
2. Speaking thru the prophets isn't working
 - a. They're still idolaters
 - b. Therefore, the Lord will cause them poverty again (to dwell in tents) to get this thru to them

Read 12:12-14

1. The contrast of vss 12-13 is clear
 - a. Israel did the working & keeping (vs 12)
 - i. This led to striving
 - b. God did the working & keep them (vs 13)
 - i. Now this is true rest
2. God says, 'I have given and I am the provision; I will be the sustainment'
3. As long as we're trying to work our own way to cleanliness, we remain dirty and guilty in sin

#3 – Recognize God’s reign, so we don’t rely on our own reasoning (Chap 13)

Read 13:1-3

1. Ephraim’s original powerful standing waned b/c of their turn to idolatry
2. They turned to idolatry b/c they did what they thought was right in their own understanding
 - a. Read Prov 3:5-6 – Solomon knew that to rule he needed God’s wisdom to do it
 - b. 2026 US Prayer Breakfast – Pres of El Salvador – gave witness to how his govt turned to God’s wisdom

Read 13:4-8

1. “You weren’t to know them” (Read Rom 16:19)
2. “They were satisfied w/ pasture” – They were not seeking to be satisfied in the spirit but in the flesh
 - a. Getting all our earthly desires is dangerous
 - b. This made them prideful

Read 13:9-11

1. God never wanted Israel to have a king like other nations, but they begged God for one
 - a. They were supposed to be a Theocracy
 - b. God saw the ask for a king as a rejection of Himself (Read I Sam 8:7)
2. Beware anytime someone says, “We just need a strong earthly leader to follow”
 - a. No, we need to follow God (Read John 5:43)

Read 13:12-16

1. Israel will fall b/c she's rejected her God
2. God taunts Israel, “why should I deliver you?”
 - a. Their sin deserve judgement – this is justice
 - b. Paul gives us the fulfillment of this in (Read) I Cor 15:54-57
 - c. Israel & us all need our sin removed at the cross

#4 – Render our confession of sin, so we may be converted (Chap 14)

Read 14:1-3

1. All that's needed is a heart to confess truth
2. Vs 3 is *that* confession of the mouth that's needed for conversion and salvation
 - a. Alliance with men can't save me
 - b. Military might and wealth can't save me
 - c. No religious god can save me
 - d. I need the grace and compassion of Yahweh

Read 14:4-7

1. Once they do their part of confession, God's free to lavish his love and grace on them
 - a. He will heal, allowing them to flourish again
2. How beautifully involved God wants to be w/ us

Read 14:8

1. God has all that we need
 - a. This isn't a question of fact—Does He really?
 - b. This is a question of faith—Do you believe it?

2. God has the answers for running your *family*, your *finances*, and your *future*
3. We simply need to ask Him

Read 14:9

1. If you've ever wanted a verse that speaks about the entire Bible – here it is
 - a. It gives truth – to those that will receive it
 - b. It takes commitment to dig into the Word
 - c. It is the very instrument by which the world is divided
2. Choice is yours – what will you do w/ the Word?

Conclusion

What a gracious offer, that He would allow the betrayer, us, to return to Him

1. **Receive God's love; don't receive of our lusts**
2. **Reap God's provision; don't remain in poverty**
3. **Recognize God's reign; don't rely on our reasoning**
4. **Render our confession of sin to be converted**