



Go for God!

**THE BOOK OF HOSEA**  
**CHAPTERS 11 – 14**  
**“ISRAEL’S PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE!”**

> **CHAPTER 11- “GOD’S LOVE, ISRAEL’S BACKSLIDING”**

(v1-4) God’s love and care for Israel, Israel could care less and rebels against God.

(11:1) *“out of Egypt I called My son”- Ex 4:21-23- Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' ' "*

N.T. - *Matthew 2:13-15 - Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”*

**(v5-12) In this passage we see Israel’s backsliding and God’s Care & Concern:**

(v5) God said through Hosea *“Because they refused to repent”*  
- **What is true REPENTANCE?** REPENTANCE is a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God (Matt 9:13; Luke 5:32). In a more general sense, repentance means a change of mind (Gen 6:6-7) or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct (Matt 27:3). True repentance is a "godly sorrow" for sin, an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction. This type of repentance leads to a fundamental change in a person's relationship to God.

In the Old Testament the classic case of repentance is that of King David, after Nathan the prophet accused him of killing Uriah the Hittite and committing adultery with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. David's prayer of repentance for this sin is found in Ps 51.

In the New Testament the keynote of John the Baptist's preaching was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt 3:2). To the multitudes he declared, "Bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matt 3:8; Luke 3:8). When Jesus began His ministry, He took up John's preaching of the message of repentance, expanding the message to include the good news of salvation: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel" (Matt 4:17; Mark 1:15).

In Jesus' preaching of the kingdom of God is seen the truth that repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin: by repentance, one turns away from sin; by faith, one turns toward God in accepting the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a twofold turning, or conversion, is necessary for entrance into the kingdom (Matt 18:3). "Unless you repent," said Jesus, "you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3,5). This is the negative, or judgmental, side of Jesus' message. The positive, or merciful, side is seen in these words: "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, His disciples continued His message of repentance and faith (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 20:21; 26:20). Repentance is a turning from wickedness and dead works (Acts 8:22; Heb 6:1) toward God and His glory (Acts 20:21; Rev 16:9), eternal life (Acts 11:18), and a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 2:25).

Repentance is associated with prayer (1 Kings 8:47), belief (Mark 1:15), baptism (Acts 2:38), and conversion (Acts 3:19) and is accompanied by humility (Matt 11:21). Repentance is God's will and pleasure (Luke 15:7-10; 2 Peter 3:9), as well as His command (Mark 6:12; Acts 17:30). It is a gift of His sovereign love (Acts 5:31; 11:18; Rom 2:4; 2 Tim 2:25), without which we cannot be saved (Luke 13:3). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(11:8) *Admah ... Zeboiim* - Because of the Lord's great love for Ephraim, it was painful to punish her as He did these two cities, which were destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Gen. 10:19; 19:23-25; Deut. 29:23).

(v9-11) God will not destroy Ephraim like those cities (Admah and Zeboiim), but God will discipline Ephraim until they repent, then God will call the to return as a roaring lion from the west, north, and south.

(v12) The Northern Kingdom was full of "lies" and "deceit" – Jesus confronted this same corrupt and hardened hearts in John 8:37-47, let's read.

### > CHAPTER 12- "RETURN & OBSERVE"

(v1a) *"Ephraim feeds on the wind"* - We in the N.T. church must not feed on the wind, Paul warns believers in Ephesians 4:14-16 - that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective

*working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

- (v1b) Ephraim establishes alliances with Assyria and Egypt, but does not call on God, who is their true defender! David declares in Ps 62:6-8 -

*He only is my rock and my salvation;*

*He is my defense;*

*I shall not be moved.*

*In God is my salvation and my glory;*

*The rock of my strength,*

*And my refuge, is in God.*

*Trust in Him at all times, you people;*

*Pour out your heart before Him;*

*God is a refuge for us.*

(v2-6) Here Hosea brings a charge against Judah, the Southern Kingdom, a history lesson from the life of Jacob.

- Who is Jacob? JACOB (a supplanter) - one of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah. The brother of Esau, he was known also as Israel (Gen 32:28).

Jacob was born in answer to his father's prayer (Gen 25:21), but he became the favorite son of his mother (25:28). He was nicknamed Jacob because, at the birth of the twins, "his hand took hold of Esau's heel" (25:26). According to the accounts in Genesis, Jacob continued to "take hold of" the possessions of others-his brother's birthright (25:29-34), his father's blessing (27:1-29), and his father-in-law's flocks and herds (30:25-43; 31:1).

The pattern of Jacob's life is found in his journeys, much like the travels of his grandfather ABRAHAM. Leaving his home in Beersheba, he traveled to Bethel (28:10-22); later he returned to Shechem (33:18-20), Bethel (35:6-7), and Hebron (35:27). At Shechem and Bethel he built altars, as Abraham had done (12:6-7,8). Near the end of his life Jacob migrated to Egypt; he died there at an advanced age (Gen 46-49).

The most dramatic moments in Jacob's life occurred at Bethel (Gen 28:10-22), at the ford of the River Jabbok (32:22-32), and on his deathbed (49).

The experience at Bethel occurred when he left the family home at Beersheba to travel to Haran (a city in Mesopotamia), the residence of his uncle Laban (28:10). On the way, as he stopped for the night at Bethel, he had a dream of a staircase reaching from earth to heaven with angels upon it and the Lord above it. He was impressed by the words of the Lord, promising Jacob inheritance of the land, descendants

**"as the dust of the earth" in number, and His divine presence. Jacob dedicated the site as a place of worship, calling it Bethel (literally, House of God). More than 20 years later, Jacob returned to this spot, built an altar, called the place El Bethel (literally, God of the house of God), and received the divine blessing (35:6-15).**

**The experience at the ford of the River Jabbok occurred as Jacob returned from his long stay at Haran. While preparing for a reunion with his brother, Esau, of whom he was still afraid (32:7), he had a profound experience that left him changed in both body and spirit.**

**At the ford of the Jabbok, "Jacob was left alone" (32:24). It was night, and he found himself suddenly engaged in a wrestling match in the darkness. This match lasted until the breaking of the dawn. The socket of Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he struggled with this mysterious stranger, but he refused to release his grip until he was given a blessing. For the first time in the narrative of Genesis, Jacob had been unable to defeat an opponent. When asked to identify himself in the darkness, he confessed he was Jacob-the heel-grabber.**

**But Jacob's struggling earned him a new name. For his struggle "with God and with men" in which he had prevailed, his name was changed to Israel (literally, Prince with God). In return, he gave a name to the spot that marked the change; it would be called Peniel-"For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (32:30). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)**

**- Embrace verse 6 – *So you, by the help of your God, return; observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually.***

**(v7-14) Ephraim is full of sin, corruption, deceit, idolatry, and bloodshed; Ephraim will reap its reproach!**

**> CHAPTER 13- "GOD'S SALVATION!"**

**(v1-3) Once again, we see the sin of spiritual adultery through idolatry! Hosea speaks of chaff blown away and smoke from a fire in judgment upon Ephraim.**

**- Listen to John the Baptist in Matthew 3:7-12 - *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with***

*water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

(v4) *There is only one God & Savior!* - In verse 4 God refers to himself as the only “savior”, the word “SAVIOR” is used some 36 times in the Bible (12 times in the O.T. and 24 times in N.T., whereas, in the N.T. “Savior” refers to Jesus Christ, the Son of God; thus we experience the second person of the trinity for our salvation! God is the Savior, Jesus is the Savior, Jesus is God, Immanuel being translated “God with us!” (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8; Matthew 1:23)

> *Jesus as God the Savior:*

- Acts 5:30-31 - *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

- 1 Timothy 2:2-6 - *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,*

- Titus 2:13-14 - *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

> *The Trinity – Three in one:*

- God our Father, hallowed be Your name!
- Obedient Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!
- Disciplined by the Holy Spirit through the Word of Truth!

(v5-8) In verses 7 and 8 we see them attacking Israel through its history:

(v7) Here we similar imagery to Daniel Ch. 7 regarding the future of Israel and its enemies: (not necessarily in the same order);

- “lion” – Babylonian Empire
- “leopard” – Grecian Empire
- “bear” – Medo-Persian Empire
- “lion” – Roman Empire
- “beast” – Antichrist Empire

(v9-16) Observe sin’s devastation and destruction!

## **CHAPTER 14- "ISRAEL'S FUTURE: RESTORATION & GOD'S HEALING!"**

**(v1-7) God restores Israel!**

**(v8-9) The ways of the LORD are right!**

**- Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.***

**Paul writes in Galatians 5:16-26 - *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.***