

**The Prodigal Son Version 1.0
God's Grace on Display
Hosea 11:1 – 11**

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The prodigal son. If you have been around the Bible for any length of time you are probably familiar with the story that Jesus tells in Luke 15 about two sons of the father. One who treated his dad as if he were dead and wanted his inheritance right now, and the other who remained at home with dad serving him. Things did not go well for the one son who left as he later finds himself feeding pigs and starving to death, but this was only after he had frittered away everything his father had given him on a partying lifestyle.

While out away from the land and his father, the one son, the prodigal came to his senses and returned home admitting his sin to his father.

Luke 15:21–24

“Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.” (NRSV)

Was Jesus telling us a story that came from a fact-based situation He was aware of, or is this something more?

Beginning in Hosea 11, we discover, looking forward, that what Jesus was describing was truly something more. At one level, Jesus is talking about all of us before we came to our senses and responded to what it was the Holy Spirit was telling us about Him about our need to acknowledge Him as our Savior and Lord.

At another level, Jesus was describing the ongoing story of another prodigal, Israel, and, perhaps a situation He was aware of.

Hosea relates to us the story of a prodigal people, Israel. "Beginning in 11:1 the prophet presents YHWH as reflecting on Israel as an incorrigible child called "my son.'" (Dearman 2010, 274)

We already know that because of their sin, Israel has opted for the curses side of the equation. YAHWEH had Moses detail this for Him in Deuteronomy 28. We also know that time is very short now for the nation.

We will learn that despite what is now becoming historical judgement falling on them as a nation. Judgement caused by their own actions over a long period of time despite numerous warnings; YAHWEH still loves them.

What we will see as "the suffering love of a father for his family is also a reiteration of the wounded husband and father in chs. 1–3." (Dearman 2010, 274)

We will see that there is a glorious future for Israel yet to come. The words used here are similar to the ones God instructed Moses to use with Pharaoh when He first rescued and delivered His people from the slavery of Egypt. This is a picture of being saved from the world system. This word choice points at the grace of God and the chance that there might yet be another future deliverance in store.

Exodus 4:22–23

"You must say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD has said, "Israel is my son, my firstborn, and I said to you, 'Let my son go that he may serve me,' but since you have refused to let him go, I will surely kill your son, your firstborn!" ' '" (NET 2nd ed.)

Israel is described as YAHWEH's son. His firstborn. What we have here in Hosea is the story of the prodigal son, version 1.0.

The adoption of Israel as the son of Jehovah, which began with its deliverance out of the bondage of Egypt, and was completed in the conclusion of the covenant at Sinai, forms the first stage in the carrying out of the divine work of salvation, which was completed in the incarnation of the Son of God for the redemption of mankind from death and ruin. The development and guidance of Israel as the people of God all pointed to Christ; not, however, in any such sense as that the nation of Israel was to bring forth the son of God from within itself, but in this sense, that the relation which the Lord of heaven and earth established and sustained with that nation, was a preparation for the union of God with humanity, and paved the way for the incarnation of His Son, by the fact that Israel was trained to be a vessel of divine grace. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 89)

God's grace for Israel and for us will be on full display in Hosea 11.

Hosea 11:1–4

"When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son. The more they called them, The more they went away from them; They kept sacrificing to the Baals And burning incense to idols. Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; But they did not know that I healed them. I pulled them along with cords of a man, with ropes of love, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them." (NASB 2020)

When we remember someone that we love, it is not unusual to reminisce about the times where that love seemed to be the strongest.

As parents we think about our children, if now grown, when they were much smaller and more demonstrative about their love than they are now. If we have a child who has turned into a prodigal, we long for a return to that condition. We still love our child or grandchild who has strayed off, we may not like them much right now and what they do presently may be offensive to us, and quite possibly the actions are being done intentionally. But we remember how they were and want to see them return to the way they were before they strayed away.

God is no different.

YAHWEH begins immediately in verse 1 relating how He loved Israel when they were young as a people. He had seen to it that they became a people through the miracle of Abraham and Sarah having a child when it was totally impossible for them to do so on their own. God loved them and gave them a son and the story of His superintendence over the patriarchs in order to see a family become a nation is a major topic of Genesis. Of course, this was opposed from the beginning by Satan because of the declaration of war in Genesis 3. As a result, God had to intervene more than once, but the place spiritually, Israel is currently in is, in part due to the enemy.

Satan is fully aware of the promise of a redeemer yet to come, and he has put it together that the redeemer will come from God's people, the Jews. Thus, the attacks and ongoing warfare both spiritually as well as physically.

When His people were young, He loved them and took loving care of them. His desire was for them to also express loving loyalty back to Him which included following His laws for how they should live in the land He gave them.

God demanded Pharaoh release His son.

Here is a lesson for us, those who God calls out of the bondage of Egypt, or in our case, the bondage of sin, are having the love of God being lavished on them for no reason other than the grace of God. YAHWEH called His son, Israel out of bondage and slavery and into freedom and liberty only available through God. Matthew would later add to this thought since Jesus is not only a Jew but is also God's Son, he quotes this as a prophecy.

Matthew 2:14–15

“And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”” (ESV)

The words have a dual meaning here, not unusual when we look at prophecy from a NT context looking backwards. We do not want to read the NT into the OT, but as prophecy is being fulfilled, even today we find ourselves just like Matthew; seeing another meaning for what God said through His prophets.

Here, “the calling of Israel out of Egypt and prophetically of the bringing of Christ thence; and the former was a type of the latter, and a pledge and earnest of the many and great favours God had in reserve for that people, especially the sending of his Son into the world, and the bringing him again into the land of Israel when they had unkindly driven him out, and he might justly never have returned. The calling of Christ out of Egypt was a figure of the calling of all that are his, through him, out of spiritual slavery.” (Henry 1994, 1486)

The picture is simple, Egypt is a type of the world system which wants dominion over us. Israel (governed by God) in Egypt is a picture of the believer being held prisoner by the world. Jesus Christ became a man. He entered Egypt and was called out of Egypt just as the nation was, “He was in the

world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:10–13, NKJV)

Unlike Israel, Jesus was not a slave in Egypt. This means Jesus was not a slave to the world or to the sin nature which we all have.

Jesus, who also was in Egypt, subject to the world system, conquered it and through His death and resurrection provided the escape from that system for us we all looked for. He set us free.

Galatians 5:1

“Preserve Your Freedom Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.” (GNB)

God did not take Israel out of Egypt because they had done anything. They were slaves. “In effect God is saying, “Israel as a nation was my son, and I took him out of Egypt. I did not take them out of Egypt because they were wonderful people who were serving Me. They were not serving Me but were in idolatry even then. It was not because of their ability, their superiority; they had nothing like that. I took them out of Egypt because I loved them.”” (McGee 1997, 650)

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.” (NASB 2020)

God then established a covenant with His people after taking them from Egypt. He asked them to be faithful to the covenant. Covenant obedience was what was commanded by God of His people. For us as New Testament believers, He asks the same of us.

1 John 1:5–7

“Now this is the gospel message we have heard from him and announce to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him and yet keep on walking in the darkness, we are lying and not practicing the truth. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (NET 2nd ed.)

What did Israel do in response to the grace of God?

Hosea 11:2

“The more they called them, The more they went away from them; They kept sacrificing to the Baals And burning incense to idols.” (NASB 2020)

YAHWEH sent prophets to His people calling them back to covenant loyalty when they strayed. But the more they called to them, the further they went into their worship of the no-gods. The response was a display of gross ingratitude for all that God had done. They instead sacrificed to the Baals and paid attention to them by offering incense. This was amazing ungratefulness.

Hosea 11:3

“Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; But they did not know that I healed them.” (NASB 2020)

The conduct is incredible because YAHWEH is the one who taught His people how to walk. He taught them His law.

Just as parents when we get excited to see those first steps take place, YAHWEH relates He too was there to teach and there to catch them as they learned to walk in his covenant. As they ventured out into the wilderness away from Egypt, He was the one who healed them so they could follow His presence.

Psalm 103:1–5

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (ESV)

It is YAHWEH who did everything for them, and they turned away.

Hosea 11:4

“I pulled them along with cords of a man, with ropes of love, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them.” (NASB 2020)

YAHWEH is the one who led them so they would not get lost. His love and tender care is evident in that He provided direction, food, and rest. The example is compared to the care one would give an animal.

Israel was not led by the halters and ropes of coercion, associated indeed with the response of resistance and struggle. Rather, from the beginning, Yahweh acted with the gentleness and consideration which mark the way a man leads his friend (so Kimchi). Accordingly Yahweh had sought to draw his people into a relationship of friendship and familiarity. (Macintosh 1997, 448)

Did Israel understand this level of care? As you read through the wilderness wanderings you get that stubbornness on the part of the nation was evident most of the time. That did not stop God though from loving and caring for His people. “When the father’s help was not comprehended, he became even more loving: “I bent down and fed them.” What an expressive picture of divine condescension!” (Wolff 1974, 200)

We can never doubt how much the Father truly loves Israel and how much He loves us as well. The picture presented here is one of the Lord bending over and hand feeding an animal when the animal is unable to feed themselves.

Because of this love and care, and because of the stubborn rebellion of His people, He tells us what is in the future for them. As a prodigal, this is where His son has decided, through disobedience, to go. For the Father, administering discipline is in order. Now comes the present day.

Hosea 11:5–7

“They will not return to the land of Egypt; But Assyria—he will be their king Because they refused to return to Me. And the sword will whirl against their cities, And will destroy their oracle priests And consume them, because of their counsels. So My people are determined to turn from Me. Though they call them to the One on high, None at all exalts Him.” (NASB 2020)

Here is the deal, because Israel will not allow God to be Lord and King over them; and they refuse to recognize that it is God who has taken care of them, He will not let them flee to Egypt to escape Assyria.

So much for the plan to run off to Egypt and escape harsh treatment. Assyria moved so quickly that escape became impossible. Loss of the nation and loss of self-determination is “because they refused to return to Me.” Prophet after prophet called for repentance. “The problem was not lack of an invitation to do so, but the fact that they stubbornly and deliberately said no.” The pain in God’s voice is clear, they refused. (Mackay 2012, 299)

Exile in Assyria is a done deal as far as God is concerned.

As the Lord states in verse 6, the Assyrian military will be thorough in their assault on the northern kingdom. The cities will fall, and all the priests of the false gods will be destroyed because they lied to the people.

God is heart-broken at their disloyalty. Hosea was a deeply affectionate man, the kind of husband who is constantly showering affection on the one he loves. It tore him to pieces when he could get no like response from Gomer. But, as he discovered, God feels the same way. (Eaton 1996, 167)

Hosea 11:7

“So My people are determined to turn from Me. Though they call them to the One on high, None at all exalts Him.” (NASB 2020)

Here is one of the signs I have seen of a prodigal, they are so determined to not do what they know they should, that they double down on what they should not be doing and make their situation even worse. Satan has a simple goal, he wants to destroy anyone who names the name of Jesus Christ and if he can do so by misleading a child or a spouse or a parent, he will do so. They are listening to a lie and that is why it is so important for us to be praying for them.

I have talked with many parents of prodigals, and they uniformly relate the same heart that we see God express here in Hosea. The pain sustained as everything you ever did for them is systematically attacked or destroyed by them in their life is tough to watch. In some cases, the end point is physical destruction or possible jail time.

Don't stop praying for your prodigal. God continued to send prophets to Israel, but by this point, the people were so far gone, discipline was required.

God still loves His prodigal son Israel though.

The need for discipline is obvious. Judgment is required. The evidence against the accused is overwhelming. But the accused is a son, the deeply loved people of the judge. It must happen, and God laments the thought of having to do so.

He deeply loves His son Israel, but that child has rebelled to such a degree that if YAHWEH says to do something, they will do the opposite and work to mislead others undermining the truth about the Father. They lie to themselves and to others about the one who loves them, and they seek to destroy those who do not agree with them.

God shows us His heart in this highly anthropomorphic statement. “Just as a loving father has internal struggles with how or whether to severely punish his son, so God cries out in distress over his decision to destroy his people. In these words to Hosea, God reveals that he is not a cold and heartless father; his heart goes out to his beloved children that he has to punish.” (Burge and Hill 2012, 813)

Hosea 11:8

“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I surrender you, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart is turned over within Me, All My compassions are kindled.” (NASB 2020)

Discipline is hard to do. Tough love may be the right thing to do, but it is still tough to do. Just as Hosea wanted to see a change in the behavior of Gomer his wife, God is no different about Israel. We would say we love our child, but do not like them a whole lot right now because of their actions.

This is an amazing section of scripture. The intent is to show us the true heart of the Father. “God debates with himself, changes his mind, and having changed it will not “turn back” (shub) to destroy Ephraim as Admah and Zeboiim, cities of the plain associated with Sodom and Gomorrah, were

overthrown (hapak; Deut 29:23). This time it is Yahweh's heart which is overthrown (hapak), turned from judgment to mercy." (Emmerson 2003, 682)

In God's argument with Himself, we see Him walk back the level of judgement He initially contemplated. He walks it back a bit because of His grace and love for His people. He uses two town names associated with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Admah and Zeboiim were wiped of the face of the planet never to be resettled (Deuteronomy 29:23) and asks himself how could He make Israel like that. He concludes with the decision to continue with judgement yet show compassion. There will be a remnant. Verse 9 provides the decision He makes.

Hosea 11:9

"I will not carry out My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath." (NASB 2020)

The harshness of Yahweh's judgement is designed to provoke penitence and piety. Man punishes to destroy: God intervenes for the purpose of correction (after Jerome). (Macintosh 1997, 465)

As fallen man, we would look at the facts of the case presented to us and conclude that the accused is totally incorrigible and good only for being destroyed. The world would be a better place without having people who intentionally dis their creator and attribute it all to a false god who is nothing more than a fallen created being. God put these fallen ones on trial in Isaiah 41 and they failed.

His grace towards Israel reflects knowledge of the source of their problem. They will be judged and reduced to a remnant, but the real enemy will be dealt with as well.

Isaiah 41:21–24

"The LORD's Challenge to False Gods The LORD, the king of Israel, has this to say: "You gods of the nations, present your case. Bring the best arguments you have! Come here and predict what will happen, so that we will know it when it takes place. Explain to the court the events of the past, and tell us what they mean. Tell us what the future holds— then we will know that you are gods! Do something good or bring some disaster; fill us with fear and awe! You and all you do are nothing; those who worship you are disgusting!" (GNB)

Those fallen divine beings who rebelled against their creator have been summoned to court.

Accountability to the King of the Universe has never ended. No matter how much they insist that they are free of Him, they aren't (Psalm 82). The same goes for mankind. No matter how much we insist we do not believe God or need God, we are still accountable to God (Revelation 20:11 – 15).

This is not a polemic against statues or idolators asking them to account for themselves, this is a call to accountability for those who have been lying to the nations, those fallen members of the heavenly hosts who have rebelled against their creator.

Israel decided to worship these fallen ones, and we will see that Judah will make the same poor choice.

Exile from the land is in order.

We struggle with this thought and wonder how someone could worship a statue, there is more to it than that. Personal evil from the unseen realm is behind these gods.

The believing church is bending under the weight of its own rationalism, a modern worldview that would be foreign to the biblical writers. Traditional Christian teaching has for centuries kept the unseen world at arm's length. We believe in the Godhead because there's no point to Christianity without it. The rest of the unseen world is handled with a whisper or a chuckle. (Heiser 2015, 17)

The Apostle Paul, who had the equivalent of two doctoral degrees, believed that the supernatural world was very real. So did those alive at the time of Hosea. Only since we have become enlightened in the west, have we turned away from that truth and created a fiction that is not a Biblical worldview but deeply embraced by way too many.

The enemy, if you do not believe they are real, can cause all kinds of mischief that we then assign to mental illness, or misguided hubris, or politics. But in reality, they are playing those who reject Jesus as fools and way too much of the church these days falls into the same category.

The Bible is an inspired book and comes from outside our physical and time domain. It has been directly influenced by an extraterrestrial being who is our Creator. He exists as three distinct persons yet is still one. One of those persons, the Holy Spirit, had direct influence on the 40 authors who were used to put the words together in the 66 books we call the Bible. And He is still personally involved in those words today.

That is why we can call the Bible the living word of God and sharper than a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:23).

Paul, who had been a personal visitor to that domain, knew how real it was. The reality we think we know is not the reality of the Bible.

There are extraterrestrial beings who were also created, like we are, by this Creator. They were made to reside with and serve our Creator in the same realm He currently dwells in, the Spirit realm. He is YAHWEH, the Father.

Some of them have rebelled and in fact it was the original rebel, who was a trusted throne guardian of the Creator, who enticed our forebearers to rebel against the Creator as well. Many more of his fellow spirit beings, called Elohim, have also rebelled since then and Paul addressed this reality.

Because of that rebellion, a rescue mission was determined necessary by the Creator, even before He made the Universe, and another person, the Son, made the way for members of the rebellion here on earth to, thanks to the Holy Spirit and the book He inspired, to see the truth.

The Son personally paid the high price too, with His own death, to buy back those who had rebelled on earth. Amazingly, the price for this was His own blood. He made this sacrifice willingly for each of those who accept the gift of what He did and then embrace the simple fact that through His rising from the dead declared His Lordship over all creation.

All we must do is believe He died and rose from the dead and then declare He is Lord. Once we have done that, then we are saved from the destination that the rebellion was dictating for all the participants, hell. This changed destiny by the power of the Holy Spirit results in a changed life and the establishment of new loyalties.

Everything is made new (Romans 6:4).

But this also has meant that because of that, all of us who have accepted this gift and become faithful followers of Jesus Christ, are now engaged in open warfare against the powers who are behind the rebellion. Those powers that the northern kingdom of Israel decided to worship.

The thing though, is when the Son rose from the dead, He defeated those powers. They lost and we do not fight this war with the Son, empowered with the Holy Spirit who still takes a personal interest in each one who follows the Son, from a position of weakness, but from a position of victory.

We have something that Hosea could only dream of, and we have this because of Jesus.

We have armor.

Ephesians 6:11–13

“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.” (NLT)

This is the reality of the Bible. It is a story of a continuing rebellion of members of God’s creation against their creator. This rebellion includes members of the heavenly host as well as man.

Israel knew about the origins of the unseen realm, yet they chose to intentionally ignore it and instead embraced and worshiped those in direct rebellion with YAHWEH, the one who lovingly guided them from Egypt to the promised land.

God tell us in verse 9 that He will not destroy Israel, even though the facts are beyond a reasonable doubt. The verdict is...guilty. But God loves them.

Hosea 11:9

“I will not carry out My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.” (NASB 2020)

Instead, I shall postpone it; having second thoughts, I shall not give vent to unmitigated anger. I would not consign Ephraim to complete destruction, despite its evil record. (Cyril of Alexandria 2007, 217)

He did not postpone it, but He did not destroy the entire nation leaving a remnant.

Even though this is His decision, He reminds us of His holiness. He hates sin, and He wants the sinner to repent and return to Him and be in a relationship with Him. Jesus made this all possible for us.

There is a future for Israel, at least for the remnant. They will not be completely destroyed by Assyria, but they will go into exile and that exile will last for a very long time. It will last for centuries.

We have already seen it discussed as vultures stripping the flesh of the dead down to the bone, yet Ezekiel prophesied to those bones, they put on flesh and became a nation again in 1948.

Has the prodigal returned home? They are not yet in belief, that is coming, but they are walking up the driveway now. At a point in the very near future, everything will change.

At the end of the Tribulation with the apparent genocide of the Jewish people at hand, the nation “...will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’” (Zechariah 13:9b, ESV)

Everything changes. They call for their Messiah, and He comes, as the avenger of blood.

Revelation 19:11–16

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” (ESV)

The response of His people, the remnant who have cried for help and received the answer, is a faithfulness that will never again be shaken. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah has personally shown up on their behalf. The response will be one of faithfulness. The prodigal is home.

Hosea 11:10–11

“They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed He will roar, And His sons will come trembling from the west. They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, And like doves from the land of Assyria; And I will settle them in their houses, declares the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

When Christ returns, He does so as the avenger of blood and the actions He undertakes upon returning are consistent with the picture of Him roaring like a lion (Isaiah 61:2). As He roars, His word finishes off the nations of the world and the gentile rule of planet earth comes to an end as Jesus begins to rule from Jerusalem.

As we have seen in Isaiah, once Jesus returns, not only will He gather up all the Jews scattered over the planet, but those gentiles who enter the Kingdom, will participate in returning them all to their homeland. His roar, the subduing of the nations of the world enables the great reset as we enter the Kingdom age with Christ on the throne.

Hosea’s point here is that there is to be a new exodus in which God will again play the part of the lion and deliver his people from their enemies and into a new Promised Land. (Garrett 1997, 229)

This new Exodus is the same as described in Isaiah 60

Isaiah 60:4–6

“Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.” (ESV)

These dispersed Israelites, from the lands of the west, from the land of the south (Egypt) and from the land of the east (Assyria), will hasten (not “tremble”) to Palestine to “walk after the Lord,” at which time God will place them in their own houses (settle them forever in the land promised to them). (Gingrich 2004, 33)

This is a picture we see elsewhere in the scriptures. God will deliver His people at the point of their deepest need. They recognize their need of Messiah and ask Him to deliver them, and He does.

He is looking forward to settling them into their homes on a permanent basis at the end of the Tribulation.

Hosea 11:11

“They will come trembling like birds from Egypt And like doves from the land of Assyria; And I will settle them in their houses, declares the LORD.” (NASB95)

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