



**Why We Are Expecting Him Now!  
It Really Is All About Israel!  
Hosea 5:15-6:3**

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Why are we waiting and watching and why are we so expecting His return for the church to be so soon, like at any second.

Let's take a look at a couple of verses that may help to shed light on why we are so expectant today.



Hosea 6:1–2 “Come, let’s return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. **He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.**” (NASB 2020)

Yes, this does indeed point to the resurrection, but is there more?

Hosea 5:15–6:3

**“I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.** “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. **After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.** Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”” (ESV)

The English translation from the ESV gives you no hint as to who is doing the talking once we get to verse 1. Hundreds of pages have been written conjecturing as to just who is doing the speaking. Is it God, or Hosea, or a debauched Israel, or a remnant of Israel, or a straw man being argued to those who need to hear.

The Septuagint, translated from the Hebrew into the Greek around 200 BC provides the following giving us the sense that the rabbi’s all leaned towards. It is about Israel, the Northern Kingdom. But I is really about all of Israel.

Hosea 5:15–6:3

“I will go and return to my place until which time they are destroyed, and they will seek my face. In their affliction they will rise up early toward me, saying, ‘Let us go and return to the Lord, our God, because he has snatched away, and he will heal us. He will strike, and he will bandage us. **He will restore us to health after two days; on the third day we will rise and live before him, and we will know; we will seek to know the Lord.** Like the sure-to-come dawn we will find him, and he will come to us like the early and late rain comes to the earth.”” (Brannan, et al. 2020, Hosea 5:15-6:3)

Clearly, those who are speaking are the remnant of Israel at the end of the age. “They will say,” looking back at the context, it has been about Israel, and it still is and that is who is talking. We are being given a preview of what the remnant of Israel will be saying when they turn to Messiah at the end of the age.

There is one more version we can look at as well and that is the Targums. This is the Aramaic translation.

Hosea 5:15–6:3

**“I will remove my Shekinah. I will return to my holy abode in heaven, until they realize that they are guilty, and petition me.** When they are in distress they will seek my face. They will say, “Come let us return to the worship of the Lord: for he who struck us will heal us; he who brought destruction upon us will relieve us. He will give us life in the days of consolations that will come; on the day of the resurrection of the dead he will raise us up and we shall live before him. And we shall learn and strive to know the face of the Lord. Like the light of the morning which shoots forth when it comes out, so he will bring blessings to us like strong rain, and like the latter rain that saturates the earth.”” (Cathcart, McNamara and Maher 1990, Hosea 5:15-6:3)

Again, signals pointing us to the end of the age, the remnant and that point in time after the Tribulation is over and Jesus is on the throne when the Old Testament saints are resurrected.

As we examined, verse 15 points to that time yet in the future when the nation of Israel, as one, turns towards their Messiah and asks Him to come and save them.



Leading up to verse 15 was the recitation of charges against the people, and they were quite detailed. Verse 15 begins, for us, a glimpse of the grace of God and His heart for His people.

But He is done with them for now. They will get what they want for a time and that time has now lasted for over 2000 years. His glory departed during the time of Ezekiel and did not return for the Second Temple.

But then we get the call to return to the Lord which the people will indeed do at some time yet in the future. But again, the question, how long between these two points?

Hosea 6:2

**“After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up,** that we may live before him.” (ESV)

Is this a reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Some scholars believe that is a possible interpretation of this prophecy.

Jewish rabbis though have seen something else, something that more closely follows what we have seen take place historically. In the Babylonian Talmud we see that this was interpreted to mean not days, but thousands of years instead.

Babylonian Talmud

Said R. Qattina, “The world will exist for six thousand years and be destroyed for one thousand, “as it is said, ‘And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day’ (Is. 2:11).”

Abbaye said, “It will be desolate for two thousand years, as it is said, ‘After two days will he revive us, in the third day, he will raise us up and we shall live in his sight’ (Hos. 6:2).”

It has been taught on Tannaite authority in accord with the view of R. Qattina: Just as at the advent of the Sabbatical Year the world will lie fallow for one out of seven years...so it is with the world. A thousand years will the world lie fallow out of seven thousand years, as it is said, “And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day” (Is. 2:11), and Scripture says, “A Psalm and song for the Sabbath Day” (Ps. 92:1)—a day that is wholly the Sabbath.

And Scripture says, “For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when they are past” (Ps. 90:4). [A day stands for a thousand years.] (Neusner 2011, 520)

“The whole expression implies a short indefinite time; as we say, After two or three days.” (Drake 1853, 109) But we are seeing this is based on God’s perspective.

Referring back to verse 15, God has returned to heaven after disciplining Israel. He promises to return, but only when Israel finally decides to be serious about the relationship. The steps needed to have that take place are provided and will indeed be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation. The remnant of Israel will indeed return to the Lord, but how long is this going to be before that happens? We are told 2 or 3 days, but the rabbis look at that as thousands of years, not days. They are interpreting days consistent with God’s view of a day in Psalm 90:4. Something Peter makes clear for us.

2 Peter 3:8–9

“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day**. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (ESV)



If that is the case, then Adam did indeed die in the day he sinned (Genesis 2:16-17).

If we are to take that as a possible interpretation, then we see here in Hosea the prophetic length of time that Israel will be out of the land. "It will come "after two days" (after the two 1000-years-long prophetic days of the church age), "in the third day" (the Millennial day)." (Gingrich 2004, 20)

Here is the thing, we are seeing the first phase of that return, the return in unbelief, taking place right in front of our eyes today. The clock is ticking and it moved towards midnight in 1948.

Ezekiel talked about this return in Ezekiel 20. Yes, there is the dry bones return of Ezekiel 37, but there are two returns and that one points to the return in belief after the end of the Tribulation. But there is what we have just read in Hosea 6:2. God's grace is limitless, and we are about to see that in action.

Hosea 6:2

"He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him."  
(NASB 2020)

Ezekiel picks up in Ezekiel 20 discussing the first return in unbelief which is underway right now.

Ezekiel 20:33–38

“As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out I will be king over you. **I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD. I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel.** Then you will know that I am the LORD.”  
(ESV)

Per Dr. Fruchtenbaum, when the nation was regathered “this time, Ezekiel prophesies, God will regather His people from all parts of the world. It should be noted that it is a regathering out of wrath, and a gathering for wrath. They were gathered out of the wrath of the Holocaust. The events of the Nazi Holocaust, when six million Jewish people died, created the world stage for Israel to become a state, for the regathering in unbelief. That this gathering is not in faith, but in unbelief, is seen from the fact that this gathering is with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out. (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 100)

Is this anywhere else in the Bible?

Zephaniah 2:1–2

“Gather together—yes, gather together, you shameless nation. Gather before judgment begins, before your time to repent is blown away like chaff. Act now, before the fierce fury of the LORD falls and the terrible day of the LORD’s anger begins.” (NLT)

Israel is regathered in unbelief and per Zephaniah, right before the day of the Lord. Add to this the need for Israel to exist as a nation because of Daniel 9:24-27 and viola, we are looking right this moment at a simple fact, Jesus Christ is about to enter time again, in order to remove the church from this planet. A distinct requirement before the Day of the Lord can begin.



Thus, 1948 marked another birth pang of the last days. The restoration of the Jewish State is a fulfillment of those prophecies that spoke of a regathering in unbelief in preparation for judgment. (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 104)

Per Israel365 News from last November, “In a rare and crucial exercise, Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, in collaboration with the National Emergency Authority, ran a full-scale simulation in the city of Ramla to prepare for a mass influx of Jews fleeing global antisemitism. The scenario envisioned planes arriving one after another, packed with thousands of Jews desperately seeking refuge from security threats and escalating hatred abroad. Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people, would need to absorb and integrate around 10,000 new arrivals within two weeks—many with incomplete paperwork, some even lacking full eligibility under the Law of Return. (Berkowitz 2025)

Luke 21:28

**“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (NASB 2020)**

Let’s pray

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