

## Hosea 11:1-2, 6:1-4, 14:1-9

### Another Portrait of Christ – and Us

1. Hosea 11:1-2 – “Out of Egypt I called my son”
  - a. In Matthew 2:15, God says this prophecy refers to Jesus as a toddler coming up from Egypt, where He was taken to avoid King Herod’s wrath
  - b. Yet if we keep reading, we see that it is a reference to Israel and the Exodus under Moses
  - c. Hosea goes on to say that God’s ‘son’ was unfaithful from the very beginning
  - d. How can this refer to Jesus?
2. Scripture helps us understand how prophecies can have various levels of fulfillment
3. Scripture also teaches us that, where we are unfaithful, Jesus demonstrates faithful obedience (see Hebrews 5:8)
  - a. In Romans 5, where the first Adam failed through disobedience, Jesus, the last Adam, succeeded through obedience
  - b. In Isaiah 53, Isaiah describes the Suffering Servant who, by his suffering, brings restoration to others
    - i. Israel was meant to be this servant by setting up a nation built upon justice, righteousness, and the knowledge of the True God through following the Torah
    - ii. Where Israel failed, Jesus would become the true Israel – the obedient son who was called out of Egypt
    - iii. In life, Jesus was the obedient child of God we are called to be – in death he became the disobedient child we are in order to suffer God’s wrath for us and pay the debt of death our sins require
4. Hosea 6:1-4 – Here also Jesus takes the place of Israel - as God describes the purpose of His judgments – discipline that leads to repentance and renewal
  - a. Verse 1a – The **Invitation**: “**Let us return to Yahweh**”
  - b. Verse 1b – The **Process**: (see Jeremiah 1:10 for how it refers to Judah as well as Israel
    - i. “**He has torn that He might heal**”
    - ii. “**He has struck down that He might bind up**”
5. Verse 2a - The **Timetable**: After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up”
6. Verse 2b – The **Result**: “**That we may live before him.**”
7. Verse 3a – The **Opportunity** it provides for today: “**Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD**”
8. Verse 3b – The **Insight** it yields: “**His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.**”
9. Verse 4 – Will we respond like Israel, with half-hearted repentance - or will we follow our Lord and be led by the new heart God has given us in Christ? (2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:17)
10. Hosea 14:1-3 - The narrow path of repentance laid out
  - a. **Return**
  - b. **Take words with you:**
  - c. “**Take away what is impure in me . . .**”
  - d. “**Accept what is good**”
  - e. “**We will no longer follow and serve false gods or our own imaginings**”
  - f. “**Satan abandons us like orphans to the death our sins have earned us**”
  - g. “**But God offers mercy and healing**”
11. Hosea 14:4-8 – God’s promises:
  - a. **I will heal their tendency to backslide**
  - b. **I will love them freely**
  - c. **They shall dwell in my shadow**
  - d. **They shall flourish**
  - e. **They shall blossom**
  - f. **All creation will know they are Mine** (Revelation 3:9)
12. Hosea 14:9 – The invitation restated:
  - a. **The wise will understand**
  - b. **The discerning will see**
  - c. **The ways of the LORD reveal if we are upright and walking in them, or rebellious and stumbling**
13. A fitting postscript to the message of Hosea: The path – the Way – is Christ; by following Him we find life (Colossians 2:6 versus Philippians 3:18)