

# HOSEA: COVENANT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

(WHAT SIN LOOKS LIKE)



❖ *Realpolitik*: Extreme pragmatism, especially in politics ~ “Machiavellian...”

## THE SITUATION

❖ **Background** (When? Who? Where?):

- National Level: Israel (~ 755-710 BC) → Prosperity/Power/Privilege (abused!) ~ Godlessness and Neglect of the Law (Torah) ~ International Contact - Alliances - Cosmopolitan - Polytheism - Syncretism - Idolatry - No Central Worship → \*\*Period of Pagan Worship – Cultural Decay – Political Instability (Familiar?) → \*\*Unfaithful to God’s Covenant
- Personal Level: Prophet Hosea (“Salvation” ~ Joshua, Jesus) → \*\*Unfaithful Family Relationship

❖ **Purpose** (Why?): To pronounce (in “cycles”) the:

- 1) Imminent curses and **judgment** on God’s people (Israel) because they have disregarded (broken) His covenant (~ SIN of the *faithless* “mother and children”)
- 2) Future blessings and salvation of the LORD’s people because of His covenant **love** for them (~ GRACE of the *Faithful* Father)

- **Important Themes:**
  - Mosaic Covenant ~ Blessings and Curses (20 of 27 mentioned!)
  - Marriage Analogy ~ Exclusive Relationship! (Experiencing Betrayal and Passion in Love)
  - Redemption ~ “2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus”

❖ **Outline** (How?—Cycles ~ Important!)

- Introduction/Superscription Hosea 1:1
- Personal: Wife (-) and Husband (+) Hosea 1:2-3:5
- National: Israel (-) and LORD (+) Hosea 4:1-14:8
- Wisdom Epilogue Hosea 14:9

❖ **Context** (So Far...):

- *Family Problems* (Hosea 1:2-2:1) → Hosea’s family problems are a picture of God’s relationship with Israel ~ **Big Idea**: Sin brings deserved judgment, but God’s grace brings hope and restoration.
- *Confronting Unfaithfulness* (Hosea 2:2-23) → Spiritual adultery has consequences and requires judgment/discipline that leads to restoration ~ **Big Idea**: Unfaithfulness demands judgment and discipline, but love provides restoration.
- *Restoration* (Hosea 3:1-5) → God’s love forgives, redeems, and is forever ~ **Big Idea**: Love restores broken relationships.
- *Results of Rejecting Knowledge* (Hosea 4:1-19) → Lack of knowing God is exacerbated by apostate priests and leads to debauched worship and its consequences ~ **Big Idea**: When we reject a knowledge of God, it has catastrophic consequences on our lives.
- *Decay and Conflict* (Hosea 5:1-14) → The decay of bad leadership/decisions brings immorality and human-based solutions ~ **Big Idea**: Cultural and spiritual decay bring conflict and judgment.
- *True Revival* (Hosea 5:15-6:6) → God is quick to respond with love and mercy to genuine repentance, but does not abide the insincere “love” and “worship of His people!” ~ **Big Idea**: True revival is the result of a proper response to God.

❖ **Text**: Hosea 6:7-7:16 (OT) Jeremiah 17:5-10 (CtW) Proverbs 21:2-3

❖ **Big Idea**: Corporate—and individual—sin is not hidden from God.

## THE SCRIPTURE (MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE)

❖ **What Sin Looks Like** (Hosea 6:7-7:16)

- *Breaking the Covenant* (Hosea 6:7-11a)
  - Context: “True Revival” ~ Knowing God!
  - Adam (Mankind or Place?) - Gilead - Shechem - Israel (Ephraim) → Reminder of bad events in Israel’s history!
  - NB: Judah will be judged as well!
- *Remembering the Evil* (Hosea 6:11b-7:3)
  - Restoration will come after the exposure of sin → God knows!
  - Wickedness/Treachery/Deceit ~ *Political Intrigue* (~ dependence on Assyria? Cf. Hosea 5:13)
- *Inflaming the Conspiracies* (Hosea 7:4-7)
  - NB: Difficult Hebrew
  - Intensity of sin! (“fired with passion”/oven/wine) → *Political Instability* (Background: Kings assassinated)
- *Courting the Alliances* (Hosea 7:8-12)
  - Mixing with foreign nations (~ “burnt bread”) ~ ignorant of weakness and decline
  - Alliances ~ “silly dove” (Illus: Jonah) ~ flitting between powers (Assyria—2 Kings 15:30 and Egypt—2 Kings 17:4) has consequences (~ tribute)

- *Lamenting the Rejection* (**Hosea 7:13-16**)
  - Separation brings destruction!
  - No repentance ~ Pagan practices: wailing and cutting (cf. **1 Kings 18:28**)
  - Not seeking “higher things”
  - Humility of Captivity: “return” to Egypt ~ *anti-Exodus*

❖ **Summary**

- Sins of Israel ~ ugly rejection/violence/deceit/betrayal/robbery/arrogance → led by *priests* and *political leaders* ~ *Realpolitik!*
- **Transition:** What’s the message for us?

**THE SO WHAT?** (APPLICATION)

❖ **Levels?**

- National < Church (Israel) < Personal

❖ **Realpolitik**

- Where is our dependence? Man (pragmatism)? God?
  - “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” **Psalm 20:7**
- Consequences of “alliances”? → Syncretism and Compromise (~ Baal worship/idolatry)
- **Quote** (Jerry Hwang): “Theopolitics”

❖ **SIN**

- The “Catalog” (from Gary Smith):

6:7	break the covenant, unfaithful	7:4	adulterers	7:11	deceived and senseless, depend on other nations
6:8	wickedness, shedding blood	7:5	inflamed with wine, joins with mockers	7:13	stray from God, rebelled against God, speak lies against God
6:9	set ambushes, murder, shameful deeds	7:6	intrigue/deception, intense passion	7:14	do not cry to God from their hearts, sacrifice without turning to God
6:10	done horrible things, prostitution, defiled	7:7	destroy rulers, cause kings to fall, do not call on God	7:15	plot evil against God
7:1	crimes, deceit, thievery, banditry	7:8	mix with the nations	7:16	do not turn to the Most High
7:2	evil deeds, sin	7:9	do not realize how foreigners influence		
7:3	wickedness, lies	7:10	arrogance, do not turn to God		

- The Problem: “Jonah” ~ naïve → Blind to our own sin!
  - ““How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.” **Proverbs 1:22**
  - ““Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,” **Proverbs 9:16**
- The Reality: God knows (omniscience)!
  - (OT) **\*\* Jeremiah 17:5-10**
- The Requirements: Restoration? (cf. **Hosea 6:11b-7:1**)
  - Knowledge (Exposure!)

- **Quote** (M. McCloskey ~ evangelism): We must be ready to challenge all men and women with an accurate biblical analysis of their predicament before their Creator. If evangelism is the cure to a terminally ill patient, we must help the patient realize the true nature of his disease.
  - ◆ NB: Secularism is one of the main problems!

- Confession ~ \*\* Jeremiah 30:1-10

#### ❖ GRACE

- God's Covenant Love (*hesed*) → "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **Romans 5:19-21**

#### ❖ JESUS

- Seeking "Higher Things" ~ "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."  
**Philippians 3:14**

#### ❖ Conclusion

- Big Idea: Corporate—and individual—sin is not hidden from God. Let's not fool ourselves or others and humbly trust in God's gracious salvation!

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**