

CONTEXT: Hosea 1:1: The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. (ESV)

Hosea 11:1–11

[1] When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
[2] The more they were called,
the more they went away;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and burning offerings to idols.
[3] Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up by their arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
[4] I led them with cords of kindness,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.
[5] They shall not return to the land of Egypt,
but Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
[6] The sword shall rage against their cities,
consume the bars of their gates,
and devour them because of their own counsels.
[7] My people are bent on turning away from me,
and though they call out to the Most High,
he shall not raise them up at all.
[8] How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
[9] I will not execute my burning anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.
[10] They shall go after the LORD;
he will roar like a lion;
when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west;
[11] they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria,
and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD. (ESV)

HOSEA AND THE OT/NT

OT - Deuteronomy 4:20-31	LAWSUIT Hosea 11:1-11	NT - Jesus
Deliverance from Egypt (v.20)	GOSPEL 11:1	
Covenant at Sinai (Ten Commandments et. al.) (v.23-24)	LEGAL BASIS FOR LAWSUIT 11:2	
Life in the Promised Land (v. 22, 25-26)	EVIDENCE 11:2-4 (see also 5:3-6) COUNTER-EVIDENCE in 6:6, 7:14, 8:2	
Curses and Exile (v. 26-28)	SENTENCE/CURSE 11:5-7	
God's Faithfulness and Repentance (v. 29-31)	PRESS CHARGES? 11:8-11 (see also Hosea 1-3)	

Hosea - a few keys to unlocking this prophet

Hosea 14:9: Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them. (ESV)

Structure of Hosea

Chapters 1-3: The marriage of God and his people (Ephesians 5 - Christ and the Church)

Chapters 4-14: Lawsuits: *God v. Israel*. Lots of evidence of Israel's unfaithfulness followed by curses for their sin (all curses based on Deuteronomy and Leviticus). Sometimes, future blessings are also mixed in, where God remains faithful to his promises despite Israel's sin.

What to ask/think/say while reading Hosea

(1) What does this reveal about God's character? (Hosea 14:9 - ways of the Lord are right)

- A. Praise him for who he is!
- B. Ask for help in understanding him.
- C. Think about the implications of God's character (e.g., If God is all-powerful, then I can trust him, but do I?); tell him what you are thinking.
- D. Consider how Jesus and New Testament reveal what we learn about God in Hosea; talk to God about this.
- E. Think out loud about how I should "walk" or think differently knowing these things about God; ask for his help.

(2) What does this reveal about Israel? (Hosea 14:9 - walking and stumbling)

- A. What expectations are there of Israel that are still expected today? Think about how you do or don't meet these expectations. Ask for help where struggling and praise the Lord where faithful.
- B. What ways does Israel stumble that I struggle with, too? Think about where/how Hosea's evidence is repeated in the New Testament. Ask God for help with your struggles and repent, turning away from your sin and to him alone for help/mercy.
- C. Pray all these same things for your church, loved ones, others. Pray that God would "return them to their homes" (Hosea 11:11)

Hosea 4:1–2 (A LAWSUIT AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW)

- LAWSUIT [1] Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel,
for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land.
- EVIDENCE There is no faithfulness or steadfast love,
and no knowledge of God in the land;
- EVIDENCE [2] there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery;
they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.
- CURSE [3] Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish,
and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens,
and even the fish of the sea are taken away. (ESV)

Hosea 5:3–6 (EVIDENCE OF PENTATEUCH LAW VIOLATIONS FOLLOWED BY LEVITICUS/DEUTERONOMY CURSES)

- EVIDENCE [3] I know Ephraim,
and Israel is not hidden from me;
for now, O Ephraim, you have played the whore;
Israel is defiled.
- EVIDENCE [4] Their deeds do not permit them
to return to their God.
For the spirit of whoredom is within them,
and they know not the LORD.
- EVIDENCE [5] The pride of Israel testifies to his face;
- CURSE Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt;
- CURSE Judah also shall stumble with them.
- CURSE [6] With their flocks and herds they shall go
to seek the LORD,
but they will not find him;
- CURSE he has withdrawn from them. (ESV)

COUNTER-EVIDENCE OFFERED BY ISRAEL

- Hosea 6:6:** For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. (ESV)
- Hosea 7:14:** They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds;
for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me. (ESV)
- Hosea 8:2:** To me they cry, “My God, we—Israel—know you.” (ESV)

GOD’S LOVE AND OURS (HOSEA 1-3 AND GOD’S MARRIAGE TO HIS PEOPLE)

- Hosea 3:1:** And the LORD said to me, “Go again, **love** a woman who is **loved** by another man
and is an adulteress, even as the LORD **loves** the children of Israel, though they turn to other
gods and **love** cakes of raisins.” (ESV)