

Hosea 6 - Come and Return unto the LORD

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v 1 The prophets call :

let us return - (1) to repent because we're the one that wandered away
he hath torn - (2) to recognize that God is just when he chastens us
he will heal - (3) to realize that God can reverse any of his judgments, including death
 doctrinal truth - Deu 32:39 (1 Sam 2:6) Job 5:17-18

unto the LORD : true repentance is toward God alone. **Acts 20:21**
 Repentance is not returning to church attendance, or good works, or better behavior.

v 2 after two days he will revive us *** Key Verse***

This key helps in unlocking God's prophetic calendar.

God's timetable of world history is marked out by his days as laid down in Genesis chapters 1 and 2:1-3. cf - Job 24:1, Psalm 90:3-4, 13-17, 2 Peter 3:8

There will be seven millenniums from the first Adam until the end of the reign of the last Adam in the Kingdom of heaven. The seventh day is the Sabbath of Millennial rest.

The types in Hosea help us understand the prophecy contained therein.

<u>character</u>	<u>type</u>	<u>ref.</u>
Hosea (<i>salvation</i>)	God the Father	Ps 89:26
Gomer (<i>heat</i>)	the nation of Israel	Deu 32:24
Jezreel (<i>sown by God</i>)	Jesus	Luke 1:35
Ruhamah (<i>mercy</i>)	the Church	Rom 15:9
Ammi (<i>my people</i>)	the Remnant Jews	Rom 9:27

The *two days* begin counting after Jesus was conceived (Hosea 1:3-4).
 Shortly after 2,000 years have passed from the Saviour's birth...*in the third day he will raise us up...* Daniel 12:1-2
...and we shall live in thy sight. Revelation 20:4-6

v 3 doctr: When the Jews turn their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ they will
know the LORD. 2 Cor 3:15-16

spir: The only way a believer can truly *know the LORD* is to *follow on*.
 Jesus agrees - John 7:17 & 8:30-32

v 4 God uses the prophet to paint a spiritual word (v 5) portrait of the people's backslidden condition. He says they are :

- (1) *a morning cloud* (6:4) - here one minute, gone the next
- (2) *a cake not turned* (7:8) - "half-baked", superficial, half-in/half-out,
- (3) *gray hairs* (7:9) - their faith has become an 'old thing' and lost its strength
- (4) *a silly dove* (7:11) - unstable, "flighty", hopping about from doctrine to doctrine
- (5) *a deceitful bow* (7:16) - undependable, not trustworthy

v 5 God prophets wield God's sword, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12.
 It both *comforts* the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable (*hewed them*).
 spir: God will use his word as the first step in chastening his people.
 God's desire is that the backslider will turn to the prodding of his word.
 Sadly, many turn away from such prodding and either leave church altogether or go down to a liberal "church" where the lead guitarist (oops...I mean lead pastor) doesn't preach truth anymore. At that point God will resort to altering the circumstances of their lives in a way that will bring them low, at which point they will eventually look up and call upon their Saviour again.

v 6 Quoted by Jesus to the Pharisees in Matthew 9:13.
 He is trying to explain the heart of his Father to zealous, religious people.
 We must read between the lines to see God's heart :
For I desired (to give you) mercy and not (receive your) sacrifice; cf Ps 51:16
and the knowledge of God (from me to you) more than burnt offerings (from you to me).

v 7 One of the characteristics of fallen men, they are *trucebreakers*. 2 Tim 3:3
 hx: Israel is guilty of breaking the Mosaic covenant. Jeremiah 31:32
they dealt treacherously against me Hos 5:7, Jer 3:20
 def: to betray a trust, to violate a pledge or faith

v 8-10 *Gilead* was the great grandson of Manasseh (Num 26:29) and was given a large region of land east of Jordan (Deu 3:13). God raised up great men in Gilead : Jephthah (Judges 17) and Elijah (1 Kings 17) to deliver his people in time of need. Rather than giving thanks they *committed whoredom* (v 10), *worked iniquity* (v 8), the *priests committed lewdness* (v 9) and *Israel was defiled*.

spir: Paul warned that *men shall be unthankful in the last days....i.e.* just before the judgment of God falls.

v 11 The prophet closes by warning Judah to avoid Israel's untoward behaviour or a similar *harvest* for sin awaits them.

prophetically : The *horrible whoredom of Israel's priests* in that time will be repeated by Judah's priests (i.e. the Pharisees and Saducees) in the days of our Lord. They will *murder in the way by consent* when they hold a mock trial in the middle of the night and cry : *crucify him, crucify him* the next day.

Thankfully, God's heart of verse 4 (part 1) will move him to fix that which is broken. God promised that even if his priests become unfaithful; He will always abide merciful and faithful. cf - **Leviticus 26:44-45**

Therefore : *Come and lets return unto the LORD*