

Hosea 14 - **God will Heal His People**

2/26/2020

The book closes on a high note. Quite different from most of the preceding chapters which were reproofs for sin and warnings of wrath. Hosea finishes with a plea for repentance and the promise of God's mercy and spiritual healing.

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|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| I. | The Plea to Return | v 1 - 3 |
| II. | The Promises of Restoration | v 4 - 7 |
| III. | The Prudent or the Rebel | v 8 - 9 |

I. The Plea to Return v 1 - 3

v 1 Hosea tells the Northern kingdom **what** to do.

Israel's fall was due to the *iniquity* of turning from God and His word to idols. Refer back to the key verses in the prior chapters; 3:1, 4:12 & 17.

The solution is simple : *return unto the Lord thy God.*

spir: Paul commended the believers at Thessalonica for essentially following Hosea's advice, 1 Thess 1:9.

fact: Idols were started by gentiles, not Jews, Jer 14:22.

doct: This will be Israel's call in the tribulation, Joel 1:15, 2:12-13

v 2 Here he tells them **how** to do it.

Return to the Lord with petitioning words.

Now that they are smarting from sin, under the load of affliction, they are taught to pray; not as Pharaoh '*take away this death*', rather *Take away all iniquity.*

hx/spir/doct: Proverbs 18:21 & 28:13 ; 1 John 1:9

v 3 These are reasons **why** they should do it.

(a) *Asshur* (= Assyria) *shall not save us* - other nations are not the answer

(b) *...not...horses* - military might is not Israel's hope

(c) *neither ...our gods* - we must acknowledge the futility and vanity of idols

II. The Promises of Restoration v 4 - 7

In this section Hosea explains the great blessings that will follow Israel's repentance.

Here we see God's 'answer of peace' promised to the prayer of a contrite sinner in every generation.

v 4 (1) Inner healing

Backsliding into sin brings disease (dis - ease). Only the Great Physician (God) can bring total healing. All the medicines and potions of human history cannot heal the sickness of sin, which is a disease of the soul first.

(2) Eternal Love

I will love them freely - This love is beyond that for a lost man; it's the love of God's covenant, Jer 31:1-3

spir: We are loved in a *new covenant*, Heb 8:13 & 12:24 ; Rom 8:35, 38-39

(3) Peace and Calm

mine anger is turned away - God's displeasure is removed and peace flows as a river.

v 5 (4) God's Presence

I will be as the dew - God's word was likened to dew, Deu 32:2

Now the **Word** is accessible, John 1:14, 16-17

(5) Growth *grow as the lily* - lilies grow steadily

his roots as Lebanon = roots of redemption

[*Lebanon* 71x in HB (all in OT); 71 is the 20th prime number

20 = the number of Redemption in Scripture (p 134, *Biblical Mathematics*)]

(6) Influence - his branches shall spread...and his beauty...and his smell

spir: God's people influence those touch, see and hear them.

doct: Israel will grow in size, number, glory, savour of prayer, and influence worldwide.

~ 1 Kings 10:1-9

III. The Prudent ... or the rebel

v 8 - 9

Let us hear the conclusion of the matter. Answering God's call of repentance results in renouncing religious idols; and focusing only on God, Mt 5:8.

Only the *prudent* and the *wise understand these things*, Psalm 107:43, Pr 2:1-11

transgressors shall fall, Pr 13:15 ...*therein* 1 Cor 2:14 ; John 12:48

All of Hosea's foregoing exhortations, terrors and warnings were designed to bring the hearers to this. God wounds that He may heal. The Spirit convicts that he may comfort. This chapter is God's lesson to all the earth. As bad as things were in Israel back then, a remnant was wise to hear. Sadly, most did not and the northern kingdom fell within one decade.