

May 31, 2020

“Pursue Love and Justice”
Lesson 5 of Unit

Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10
Hosea 12:1-2, 6-14

Intro

The people in the northern kingdom of Israel were Hosea's target group. Under Jeroboam II (about 793-753 BC), the nation enjoyed expanded borders, was wealthy, and proud of its success. But they turned away from their God to worship Baal. God confronts their idolatry by calling Hosea to live a unique (and likely very challenging) parable of God's love for his people Israel (read Hosea ch.1-3 for this story).

Read Hosea 11

- 1, What is God telling Israel in vs.1 about their history by calling them a “child” when they were in Egypt? Why is God reminding them that He called them out of Egypt (calling them His “son”)?
2. In vs. 2, what does God say is typical of the people's behavior?
3. In vs. 7, what is God saying about the people's worship practices that frustrates Him?
4. In vs. 8, what are Admah and Zeboyim (see Gen. 14:2, 8)? How does knowing what these are help us see why God is in anguish about how to respond to Israel's behavior?
5. How does vs. 9 show God's holiness and His love? Explain to / for yourself how Jesus' death on the cross shows both God's holiness and His love.

6. The first half of vs. 10 seems out of place after vs. 7-9; when / how will this “following” occur?

Read Hosea 12

1. What three misdeeds does God accuse Ephraim (Israel) of in vs. 1? What is God saying about Israel when He says that Israel “makes a treaty with Assyria and sends olive oil to Egypt”?
2. In vs. 2, Jacob means Judah, just as in vs. 1 Ephraim referred to Israel (the northern kingdom). What might God be saying to Judah, with this verse following what is said in vs. 1?
3. What does it mean in vs. 6 to “return to your God”, “maintain love and justice”, and “wait for your God always”? What significance, if any, is there to the other of these three commanded actions?
4. What idea(s) connect vs. 7-8? How does this verse connect to the unit theme for this month?
5. What is God’s purpose in the things He says in vs. 9-10? For what reason might God “make you live in tents again”? What was the purpose of Israel living in tents when the Feast of Tabernacles was established?

6. What are the sins that happened at Gilead and Gilgal in vs. 11? What is God saying to his people?

(Note on vs. 12: It appears that God is setting up another comparison here. Our book explains it this way: “Jacob initially fled to Laban for safety, (but) Jacob did not find the haven he hoped for. Jacob was deceived in marriage and ultimately sensed the need to flee. Similarly, Israel is looking to Egypt and Assyria for safety but will eventually find Egypt to be powerless and Assyria to be a deadly enemy.”)

7. What is God telling the people about Hosea through what he says in vs. 13?

8. What is God’s final warning in vs. 14?

Application: Sometimes we too can get too comfortable with what we have or who we depend on for help. We may try to solve our own problems through people we know or possessions we have. That doesn’t sound too different from the picture of Israel painted in today’s verses.

It’s not wrong to have stuff and to have great relationships with people. But depending on them instead of God isn’t what we’re called to do.

Prayer: Lord God Almighty, help us to daily remember how needy we are of You. For Your grace, for Your protections, for Your provisions. Help us also to remember what You have asked us to do, and give us strength and determination to follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.