

STEADFAST LOVE vs FICKLE LOVE

Sunday, March 24, 2019 — Hosea: God's Scandalous Love series — Msg 8 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

REVIEW:

- 1) Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom (aka "Israel", ≈ "Ephraim") around 750BC.
- 2) Hosea's wife and children were a living illustration of Israel's unfaithfulness to God.
- 3) Hosea's primary message was "Israel is unfaithful to God and His judgment is coming."
- 4) Hosea's secondary message was "God is faithful and will ultimately redeem His people."
- 5) Hosea's message to Israel is extremely valuable to today's church!
 - A) We see God's long-suffering nature.
 - B) We see our spiritual adultery in Israel's spiritual adultery.
 - C) We see the wooing power of the bridegroom's love.
 - D) We see why joyful submission to God makes complete sense.
- 6) **Last week**, in Hosea chapter 5 we saw the **foreshadowing of coming judgment/exile**.

HOSEA chapter 6

English Standard Version (ESV)

- 1 "Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
- 2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
- 3 Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth."

KEY OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS:

vs 1-3 The CALL to GENUINE REPENTANCE .

see Jeremiah chapters 30-33

- NOT the quick fix repentance (seen 5:6)
- it is a God-centered repentance
- it is a God-given repentance
(a reference to Messiah — Luke 24:26; 1Cor.15:4)
Romans 2:3-5 *God's kindness leads you to repentance*
- it is a persistent repentance
- it is a God-blessed repentance

IMPORTANT CONCEPT:

In His great mercy and love, God sometimes afflicts to save and grow.

- Psalm 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.*
- Psalm 119:71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.*
- Psalm 119:75 *I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.*
- Psalm 51:8 *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*
- 2 Cor. 12:7-10 Paul's 'thorn in the flesh' was given for Paul's good and God's glory.

- 4 *What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.*
- 5 *Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.*
- 6 *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*
- 7 *But like Adam they transgressed the covenant;
there they dealt faithlessly with me.*
- 8 *Gilead is a city of evildoers,
tracked with blood.*
- 9 *As robbers lie in wait for a man,
so the priests band together;
they murder on the way to Shechem;
they commit villainy.*
- 10 *In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing;
Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.*
- 11 *For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed,
When I restore the fortunes of my people.*

KEY OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS:

vs 4 The REALITY of Israel's Fickleness

(on again, off again affection)

- affection based in selfishness
- affection driven by emotion,
not commitment

vs 5 The REBUKE of God's Word:(hewn = "chopped" — 1 Samuel 15:32-33)
Hebrews 4:11-13**"God's Glory in Salvation Through Judgment"**

(Dr. James M. Hamilton Jr.)

Romans 5:8-11

Christ, the living Word, receives God's
judgment unto death so we may live!**vs 6 The DESIRE of God's Heart:**The restoration of true relationship with Him.
The everlasting covenant of His salvation.
Ezekiel 37:27; Revelation 21:3**vs 7-10 The DEPTH of Israel's Fall into Sin:**This likely points to the their failure to keep
the Mosaic covenant with God.
(ie. 10 Commandments, ceremonial and moral law)
Notice the darkness/depravity of their sin.
Even the priests are in on murder!
villainy (זִמָּה *zimmah*) = 'wicked schemes'**vs 11 The PUNISHMENT that awaits Judah.**

Jeremiah 51:13; Joel 2:1-3

Yet his true people will be restored.**Romans 5:8-11**

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

God's perfect redemption comes through His perfect judgment poured out on Christ!