***The Complex Love of God***

April 28st, 2019— Hosea 11-13 — Pastor Lucas Almeida

**INTRODUCTION**

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel

-Israel = Northern Kingdom / Ephraim = Largest Tribe / Samaria = Capital

-Judah = Southern Kingdom (where Jesus would come from)

**Hosea 1:2:** *When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”*

**My goal today: To help us grow in the understanding that God is indeed always good; in his love, in his justice, and in his Judgment.**

**Hosea 11**  (ESV)

[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.

**1) The Love of God**

**Exodus 4:22–23:** *[22] Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, [23] and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”*

A new Exodus is coming… a reverse Exodus

**Isaiah 59:1–2:** *[1] Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; [2] but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

*The greatest problem we have is SIN***Hosea 11 (cont.)**  (ESV)

[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.

[12] Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,

and the house of Israel with deceit,

but Judah still walks with God

and is faithful to the Holy One.

**Hosea 12**  (ESV)

[1] Ephraim feeds on the wind

and pursues the east wind all day long;

they multiply falsehood and violence;

they make a covenant with Assyria,

and oil is carried to Egypt.

[2] The LORD has an indictment against Judah

and will punish Jacob according to his ways;

he will repay him according to his deeds.

[3] In the womb he took his brother by the heel,

and in his manhood he strove with God.

[4] He strove with the angel and prevailed;

he wept and sought his favor.

He met God at Bethel,

and there God spoke with us—

[5] the LORD, the God of hosts,

the LORD is his memorial name:

[6] “So you, by the help of your God, return,

hold fast to love and justice,

and wait continually for your God.”

[7] A merchant, in whose hands are false balances,

he loves to oppress.

[8] Ephraim has said, “Ah, but I am rich;

I have found wealth for myself;

in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin.”

[9] I am the LORD your God

from the land of Egypt;

I will again make you dwell in tents,

as in the days of the appointed feast.

Admah & Zeboiim =cities that were destroyed for their sinfulness

How can a just God forgive a sinful people?

**Matthew 2:15b:** *“This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”*

Matthew is drawing a distinction between Jesus and Israel.

-Jesus was faithful when Israel was unfaithful

-Therefore every promise made to Israel is actually given to Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20)

-Everyone who is united with Christ by faith receives all the promises of God (Eph 1:3)

**2 Corinthians 5:21:** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**2) The Justice of God**

Retributive justice = You get what you deserve

**SHBC Covenant:** *"We also engage... to be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our attitudes and actions..."*

**Romans 13:14:** *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

**Galatians 6:9-10** says, *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. [10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

The household of faith = The local church

(i.e. Sheridan Hills Baptist Church)

**Hosea 12 (cont.)**  (ESV)

[10] I spoke to the prophets;

it was I who multiplied visions,

and through the prophets gave parables.

[11] If there is iniquity in Gilead,

they shall surely come to nothing:

in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls;

their altars also are like stone heaps

on the furrows of the field.

[12] Jacob fled to the land of Aram;

there Israel served for a wife,

and for a wife he guarded sheep.

[13] By a prophet the LORD brought Israel up from

Egypt,

and by a prophet he was guarded.

[14] Ephraim has given bitter provocation;

so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him

and will repay him for his disgraceful deeds.

**Hosea 13**  (ESV)

[1] When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling;

he was exalted in Israel,

but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.

[2] And now they sin more and more,

and make for themselves metal images,

idols skillfully made of their silver,

all of them the work of craftsmen.

It is said of them,

“Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!”

[3] Therefore they shall be like the morning mist

or like the dew that goes early away,

like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor

or like smoke from a window.

[4] But I am the LORD your God

from the land of Egypt;

you know no God but me,

and besides me there is no savior.

[5] It was I who knew you in the wilderness,

in the land of drought;

[6] but when they had grazed, they became full,

they were filled, and their heart was lifted up;

therefore they forgot me.

[7] So I am to them like a lion;

like a leopard I will lurk beside the way.

[8] I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs;

I will tear open their breast,

and there I will devour them like a lion,

as a wild beast would rip them open.

**Romans 3:21–26:** *[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**3) The Judgment of God**

***Psalm 28:2:*** *…beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.*

*Baal = promised prosperity/fertility*

*Moloch = cow faced idol/children sacrifice*

*Because of the sin of idolatry, Israel went from powerful to pitiful*

**Isaiah 49:15:** *Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*

*Lion/leopard/bear = signs of judgment***Hosea 13 (cont.)**  (ESV)

[9] He destroys you, O Israel,

for you are against me, against your helper.

[10] Where now is your king, to save you in all your

cities?

Where are all your rulers—

those of whom you said,

“Give me a king and princes”?

[11] I gave you a king in my anger,

and I took him away in my wrath.

[12] The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up;

his sin is kept in store.

[13] The pangs of childbirth come for him,

but he is an unwise son,

for at the right time he does not present himself

at the opening of the womb.

[14] I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol;

I shall redeem them from Death.

O Death, where are your plagues?

O Sheol, where is your sting?

Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

[15] Though he may flourish among his brothers,

the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come,

rising from the wilderness,

and his fountain shall dry up;

his spring shall be parched;

it shall strip his treasury

of every precious thing.

[16] Samaria shall bear her guilt,

because she has rebelled against her God;

they shall fall by the sword;

their little ones shall be dashed in pieces,

and their pregnant women ripped open.

**1 Corinthians 15:54b–57** *“Death is swallowed up in victory.” [55] “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” [56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**1 Peter 2:24:** *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

**CONCLUSION: Those who belong to Christ can fully enjoy the love of God without fear of his judgment because Jesus has taken upon himself all of our sins. Do you believe that?**