

THE RELENTLESS LOVE OF GOD

A STUDY OF HOSEA

#3: A LONG HARD LOOK IN THE MIRROR—HOSEA 4-7

JIM HINTON

Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

C.S. Lewis

I. OVERVIEW OF HOSEA 4-7

1. The Lord's case against Israel (4:1-5:15)

God's charges against:

- **The whole nation of Israel (4:1-3)**

How terrible it will be for people who call good things bad and bad things good, who think darkness is light and light is darkness, who think sour is sweet and sweet is sour.

Isaiah 5:20 (NCV)

- **The priests (v.4-14)**

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power...But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

Abraham Lincoln

- **The courtroom spectators – Judah (v.15-19)**

- **The political leaders (5:1-7)**

2. The Lord's sentence is pronounced (v.8-15)

3. The Lord's rejection of Israel's appeal (6:1-7:16)

God rejects their appeal because:

- **Israel's repentance is false (6:1-3)**

And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT)

- **Israel's love for wickedness (6:4-7:16)**

II. WHAT I LEARN FROM HOSEA 4-7

1. The Lord loves those He disciplines

2. Don't forget God in the good times

3. Cultivate a true knowledge of God

4. Realize the consequences of rebellion

5. Remember that God loves and forgives us when we least deserve it

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)