

Hosea 11 & 12

A Lesson in Faithfulness

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Background

- The date is now circa 725 B.C.
- Hoshea is the last King of Israel
- Shalmaneser V is the king of Assyria

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Background

- The northern kingdom is corrupt and immoral
- Covenants with other nations have been made, including Assyria
- Hoshea has broken the covenant with Assyria and entered into one with Egypt

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Background

- The nation has walked away from God and is empty spiritually
- They still practice religion though in order to gain blessings from God

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Chapter 11

- Verse 1 – key words are:
 - Love – God’s “hesed” love, His covenant love
- Called – chosen by God for a special relationship with Him

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Chapter 11

- Verse 1 – key words are:
 - Love – God’s “hesed” love, His covenant love
 - See 2 Tim :11-13
- Called – chosen by God for a special relationship with Him
 - See 1 Pet 1:1-2; 2:9-10

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Chapter 11

- Verse 1 – Note “Out of Egypt I called my son”
- Applied to Jesus in Mt 2:13-23
- Jesus is the perfect example and fulfillment of Israel’s covenant keeping

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Chapter 11

- Verse 2 – BUT:
- Israel has walked away from God – His love and His calling
- They heard His voice and chose to ignore it

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Chapter 11

- Verse 3-4: Though God raised Israel as His own
- Helped them learn to walk
- Healed them when sick and diseased
- Cuddled them and held them close
- Fed them
- God poured Himself out for them

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Chapter 11

- Verse 5-7 – BUT
- Israel rejected God and went their own way
- Israel refused to repent
 - No change of heart before God
 - Only lip-service to God

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Chapter 11

- Verse 5-7 – AS A RESULT:
- Israel would find themselves back in Egypt
 - A reversal of the exodus
- The blessings of the covenant are no longer theirs to enjoy
- They will experience the curses of breaking covenant with the Almighty God

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Chapter 11

- Verse 8-11 – YET God will not give up on them
- He will not break His covenant with them
- He will remain faithful to His word
 - The curses of the covenant will be enacted
 - Yet they will not be completely destroyed

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Chapter 11

•Verse 8-11 – YET God will not give up on them

•Question: Why would God not give up on them?

•Wouldn't you?

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Chapter 11

•Verse 8-11 – YET God will not give up on them

Answer: God does not act like us.

God is holy

•God's holiness means:

•A *guarantee* of His faithfulness toward us in both word and action.

•He cannot be anything other than perfectly faithful and true

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Chapter 11

•Verse 8-11 – YET God will not give up on them

Answer: God does not act like us.

God is holy

•God's holiness means:

•His judgements are not about revenge but rather repentance

•He seeks to purify and restore

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Chapter 11

• Verse 8-11 – YET God will not give up on them

Answer: God does not act like us.
God is holy

- God's holiness means:
- He desires that all people come unto salvation
- See 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9

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Chapter 12

Verses 1-2: The charge against Israel

- See 4:1; 5:1; 8:1
- Full of lies and deceit
- Refusal to come under the guidance of God
- Pursues vanity – see 8:7
- Trusts in man's strength rather than God's

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Chapter 12

Verses 3-5: A History Lesson

- Choosing of Jacob – Gen 25:26
- Jacob wrestles with God – Gen 32:24-30
- The ladder to heaven at Bethel – Gen 28:12-19
- Blessed by God at his return to Bethel – Gen 35:1-15

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Chapter 12

Verse 6: How to gain a blessing:

- Return to God – repentance of sins
- Practice 'hesed' love toward others
- Practice justice toward others
- Wait on God – do not move without Him

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Chapter 12

Verse 7-8: BUT

- Israel does not practice love and justice
- Israel does not acknowledge their sin and repent
- Israel does not wait for God but moves on their own strength

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Chapter 12

Verse 9-11: So, God Responds

- I am God - that is a fact that cannot be changed even if denied
- I am *your* God – He has a covenantal connection, a personal connection, and even a family connection

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Chapter 12

Verse 9-11: So, God Responds

- Walking away means:
 - Judgement of the covenant through the curses
 - Exile from the land – the *promised* land
 - The land of the covenant!
 - They will be destroyed and all they hold dear

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Chapter 12

Verse 12-13: History Lesson #2

- Jacob and Laban, Rachel and Leah
 - God's grace shown to Jacob – undeserved
- The Exodus from Egypt
 - God's grace shown to Israel - undeserved

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Chapter 12

Verse 14: BUT

- Israel ignored the grace of God
- Israel rejected the grace of God
- Israel will suffer the consequence of breaking the covenant with God – destruction and exile

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Conclusion/Summary

- Israel was called and loved by God to be His own
- Israel rejected God's call and His love
- God continues to offer His faithful covenant love
- Israel continues to reject His faithful love
- God remains faithful to His covenant word

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Conclusion/Summary

- God's holiness leads to Israel's destruction and exile
- But it does not end there! There is more to the story...
- Chapters 13 & 14 will tell us "the rest of the story"

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