

## “The Restoration Promised” - Hosea 14:1-9

Ask - “Have you ever said to someone, ‘Don’t quit, there’s also hope’? What did you mean?”

Background - Despite all of the prophetic warnings of impending judgment - the foreshadowing of disaster and great catastrophe to come - Hosea ends his prophetic message with God’s promise of hope and restoration.

“Return” - Hosea 14:1-3

(v1) What does Hosea urge God’s people - his countrymen - to do? Why do they need to return to Him (what have they done)?

(v2) What words do the people of Israel need to say to the LORD? What type of prayers do they need to offer? Give an example.

(v3) What are some of the things they have erroneously trusted in to save them rather than the LORD? Who is their only true hope?

HOSEA IMPLORES HIS PEOPLE TO REPENT AND RETURN TO THE LORD. HE TELLS THEM NOT TO RELY ON THEMSELVES OR OTHERS, BUT ON GOD ALONE.

“Restore” - Hosea 14:4-7

(v4) What is God’s promise to Israel if she returns to Him? Discuss each phrase in this verse.

(v5) In what sense will the LORD be like dew to Israel? Explain what it means that Israel will “blossom” and “take root”.

(v6) What further wonders will occur to repentant Israel. Discuss each phrase in this verse.

(v7) What will happen to those who live in Israel? In what ways will they be restored?

GOD PROMISES TO HEAL, LOVE, AND RESTORE ISRAEL AND HER PEOPLE IF THEY GENUINELY RETURN TO HIM.

“Right” - Hosea 14:8-9

(v8) What sin of Israel is mentioned in this verse? How does the LORD refute it? To what is God compared and why?

(v9) What does a person need in order to recognize and receive truth? How are the LORD's ways described in this verse? Discuss the similarities between the first and last sentence of this chapter.

IDOLS CAN'T SAVE - ONLY GOD CAN. HIS WAYS ARE RIGHT AND WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

Application - The same God who judges also restores. He disciplines those He loves so that they might repent and return to Him. Those who do will find healing, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, and renewal. God is good, and His ways are right. We can trust in Him. After all of the pain, suffering, and sorrow there is joy and restoration for those who have trusted in the LORD. Listen to "After the Last Tear Falls" by Andrew Peterson. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjCBiDu5xlc>