

He Retrieves Us

Hosea 7:8-13

Israel was corrupt and falling apart. They had resorted to worshiping idols - false gods. They looked to their leaders, politicians, for guidance, who only enslaved the people. These were the most wicked of men and all were in broken relationships with God. Everyone of them needed to repent.

In 1 Kings, Elijah the prophet challenged the people, asking how long they would waver between two choices. If the Lord is God then follow him. If Baal is God then follow him. We find ourselves in the same situation at times, vacillating back and forth.

Ephraim, a tribe in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, was described as a silly dove, not having good sense and not knowing which way to go. They called out to Egypt and Assyria, although they knew to go to God for help. Their sin drew them away from God. They kept running away from God, but God knows how to draw you back. A dove has an innate ability to fly a long distance and yet return home again.

God said that while Israel was a child he loved them and was planning their future even while they were enslaved in Egypt. God calls us out of Egypt to return home. He protects, covers and blesses us in the process. God is still moving despite what the world is doing.

God said he taught Ephraim how to walk, healed them, drew them with gentle cords, bands of love and fed them. However, they were bent on going rogue, but God refused to give up on them. He said he would not unleash his fiercest anger on them.

Israel could never seem to get it right, nor would they repent, but a wicked ruler will send you back to God, because he will break your spirit. We have the blessing of our Lord who suffered, shed his blood, and died so that we can be redeemed. We must acknowledge our sin and seek forgiveness. Redemption is there for the asking and God is waiting.