

- **The Result of Repentance** (14:4-7)

ESV **Hosea 14:4** I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. ⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; ⁶ his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷ They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

“I will heal their apostasy (*meshubah*); I will love them freely...”

“...for my anger has turned (*shub*) from them.”

“I will be like the dew to Israel...”

“...he shall blossom (*parach*) like the lily...”

“...he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon...”

“...his shoots shall spread out...”

“...his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon.”

(v. 7)

“...they shall return (*shub*) and dwell beneath my (his) shadow; they shall flourish (revive) like the grain...”

“...they shall blossom (*parach*) like the vine; their (his) fame (remembrance, memorial) shall be like the wine of Lebanon.”

Is the “they” (return, dwell, revive, blossom) Israel or others?

Is the “(his)” (shadow, remembrance) the LORD or Israel?

- **The Focus of Repentance** (14:8)

ESV **Hosea 14:8** O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

“O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?”

“It is I who answer...” (See Hosea 2:21-23)

“...and look after you.” (See Hosea 13:7)

“I am like an evergreen cypress...”

“...from me comes your fruit.” (See Hosea 9:16)

Sunday, May 10, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God
No. 21 | God’s Final Plea to Israel—
Repentance and Restoration
Hosea 14:1-8

Review

The Book of Hosea: (1) It is the first book of the minor prophets in the Old Testament (starting on page 751 in the ESV Pew Bible); (2) It recounts the “word of the LORD” to Hosea, a man who served as a prophet in deed and in word; (3) His prophetic ministry was most immediately to the northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria), then to the southern kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem); (4) He began his prophetic ministry likely shortly before Jeroboam II died (753 BC) and concluded shortly after Hezekiah began to reign (729 BC).



The Book of Hosea is about the *faithlessness* of God’s people and his *faithfulness* to them, illustrated most poignantly through marital (in)fidelity.

God’s Final Plea to Israel—Repentance and Restoration

14:1-8

Where are we at in the book of Hosea?

God commands Hosea to take a wife of whoredom and have children by her, which illustrates his warning of retribution against Israel but also his promise of restoration (**1:2-3:5**).

God then declares his controversy with Israel, which includes all of the people and his threats of real destruction (**4:1-13:16**).

God finally issues one last plea for Israel to repent of sin against him, which will result in full and final restoration (**14:1-8**).

“For the last time in the prophecy Hosea switches from describing the dire fate which awaits the intransigent community to the wonder of divine persistence in grace. Devastation is not to be the last act in the drama. Though the people had willfully played false in their relationship with the LORD, he remained ‘your God’ (14:1) and had not totally given up on them. As Hosea uttered these words, he was still holding out the possibility of personal repentance to individuals in the beleaguered community. He was also permitted to see beyond the ominous storm clouds which presently surrounded Samaria, beyond even the destruction and deportation which would shortly engulf her. By means of the harsh discipline of invasion and the atrocities associated with ruthless conquest by their enemies, the LORD was creating conditions for heart change which would lead to a general return in prayerful submission (14:1-3). The LORD assures those who repent that he will respond with overwhelming compassion and liberality to them, and that they will enjoy renewed vitality (14:4-8).” (Mackay, p. 361)

God issues a final plea to Israel, encouraging them to repent and informing them about the restoration if they do.

- **The Necessity of Repentance** (14:1)

ESV **Hosea 14:1** Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

“Return, O Israel...”

(re)turn (*shub*; the root of this word occurs twenty-five times in Hosea):

ESV **Hosea 2:7** She shall pursue her lovers but not overtake them, and she shall seek them but shall not find them. Then she shall say, 'I will go and **return** to my first husband, for it was better for me than now.'

ESV **Hosea 5:4** Their deeds do not permit them to **return** to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD.

ESV **Hosea 6:1** "Come, let us **return** to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

ESV **Hosea 7:10** The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not **return** to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.

ESV **Hosea 7:16** They **return**, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

“The call to *Return* is the language of repentance...” (Dearman, p. 336)

“...to the LORD **your God**...”

ESV **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."

ESV **Hosea 4:12** My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.

“...for you have **stumbled**...”

ESV **Hosea 5:5** The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt; Judah also shall stumble with them.

“...because of your **iniquity**.”

ESV **Hosea 9:9** They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.

What is repentance and how is it to be accomplished?

- **The Process of Repentance** (14:2-3)

ESV **Hosea 14:2** Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows¹ of our lips. ³ Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."

“Take with you **words** and return (*shub*) to the LORD...”

Is it genuine repentance if there's action but no words, or words but no action?

“...**say** to him...”

-- **Take away** (*nasa*) **all iniquity**... (See also, Exodus 34:7; Deut 4:29-31)

ESV **Psalms 32:1** Blessed is the one whose transgression is **forgiven** (*nasa*), whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up¹ as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you **forgave** (*nasa*) the iniquity of my sin. Selah

-- **Accept what is good**...

-- **We will pay with bulls the vows of our lips**...

Or, “Let us repay as bulls our lips” (Hwang, p. 320); “That we may requite [you] with our confession as if with young bulls” (Macintosh, p. 561)

ESV **Hosea 5:6** With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.

ESV **Hosea 6:6** For I desire steadfast love¹ and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

-- **Assyria will not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands**...

Assyria, horses (Egypt)... political and military...

The work of our hands... idols and false gods (Baal[s])...

-- **In you the orphan finds mercy**.

ESV **Hosea 11:1** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

ESV **Hosea 2:23** and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"