

The Book of Hosea

Chapter Six

I. Review

- A. Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel who prophesied of its fall to Assyria.
- B. Chapters 4-14 contain messages of the coming judgment upon Israel
- C. God's indictment against Israel is across three groups: Israel, the nation and people; Ephraim, the ruling class or princes; and the priests. All these have failed in their duties to serve God.

II. Chapter Six

- A. This chapter shows the hardness of Israel's heart as they refuse to turn to God wholly, and willfully continue in rebellion.
- B. vs. 1-3 - The people's response in turning back to the Lord, which seems kind of selfish to me.
 - 1. vs. 1 - note the callback to 5:14 which says "I will tear and go away". Israel is betting on God's mercy.
 - 2. vs. 2 - There is a possible reference here to Christ's Resurrection on the third day, and possibly this verse is alluded to in I Corinthians 15:4.
 - 3. vs. 3 - "in the land of Israel they had usually two rains in a year; the one in autumn, or quickly after the seed was sown; the other in the spring, when the corn was ripe, and harvest near, and which was very reviving and refreshing to the earth, and the fruits of it" - John Gill
- C. vs. 4 - God's response to the people: "How long will it last this time?"
- D. vs. 6 - VERY IMPORTANT! God was not interested in the rituals of the Law as much as the personal holiness that should accompany them!
- E. vs. 7 - "like men" - basically like Adam, in the fallen nature, turn to sin instead of good - Romans 3:10,23
- F. vs. 8 - Gilead, known for its balm of healing (see Genesis 37:25, Jeremiah 8:22 and 46:11), is now corrupt and polluted.
- G. vs. 9 - "lewdness" - The Hebrew word here is *zimmah* which Strong's defines as "a *plan*, especially a bad one: - heinous crime, lewd (-ly, -ness), mischief, purpose, thought, wicked (device, mind, -ness)."
- H. vs. 10 - I think this verse illustrates the Ephraim is not a term used for the entire kingdom of Israel. These are two distinct entities. There is a terrible thing in the nation, led by its leaders sins, and the nation is corrupted.
- I. vs. 11 - This verse pictures both the Babylonian captivity ("harvest") of Judah and also its return.