

The Book of Hosea

Chapter 6

Review

- We continue from the previous chapter and the indictment against the Kingdom of Israel for her sins.
- This chapter shows the hardness of Israel's heart as they refuse to turn to God wholly, and willfully continue in rebellion.
- The first three verses continue the thought from the previous chapter. God had tried to get their attention through light judgment (moth, 5:12) but had to resort to harsh judgment (lion, 5:14). He then sits back and waits on Israel to repent.

Chapter Six

- vs. 1-3 – these are words are the response of the people to God's judgment in last verses of chapter 5. I have thought in the past that these words were not honest, a sort of false repentance. Now, I think this is a true repentance with prophetic undertones of Israel's full conversion before the Millennial Kingdom.
- vs. 1 – The people are now convinced that as surely as God judged them, He will also forgive them and restore them.
- vs. 2 – Some see a possible reference to Christ's Resurrection on the third day and say this verse is alluded to in I Corinthians 15:4. I doubt that it is, but if it is then it is a very vague prophecy that only would be seen looking backwards and not forwards in time.
- vs. 2 – In chapter 5 we had judgment in a "month" (5:7) and a "day" (5:9). He we have restoration in two or three days. Just as quickly as God can humble, He can also exalt.
- vs. 3 – God's blessing is seen as sure as sunrise and the yearly rains.
 - "...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
- vs. 4 – God desires the people to repent and return to the place of blessing. He longs for them come back to Him. He has tried and tried to turn them to no avail.
- vs. 5 – God had warned the people of what was to come. The messages of the prophets were part of the judgment against them.
- vs. 6 - VERY IMPORTANT! God was not interested in the rituals of the Law as much as the personal holiness that should accompany them!
- vs. 7 - "like men" - basically like Adam, in the fallen nature, turn to sin instead of good - Romans 3:10,23

- vs. 8 - Gilead, known for its balm of healing (see Genesis 37:25, Jeremiah 8:22 and 46:11), is now corrupt and polluted.
- vs. 9 - "lewdness" - The Hebrew word here is *zimmah* which Strongs defines as "a plan, especially a bad one". Their crimes were premeditated.
- 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.
- vs. 11 - This verse pictures both the Babylonian captivity ("harvest") of Judah and also its return.