The Book of Hosea

Zanesville, OH | Sunday AM Bible Study

**Chapter 14**

* **14:1-3– Return to God**
* **Verse 1**– The prophet makes a plea that the people return to God since they have stumbled because of their sin (cf. Acts 2:36-38). This plea dominates the theme of the bible time and time again since man has disrupted the fellowship with his creator (Gen. 3). The only way for reconciliation is to seek God whole-heartedly (2 Chron. 7:14; Isa. 55:6-7; Jer. 6:16).
* **Verse 2**– Hosea urges the people to do exactly what he said in v.1 and he adds that they take words with them. The idea is that they pray to God for forgiveness. True remorse is seen in the emotional outpouring of the heart seeking to put sin away and drawing near to God (Psa. 51; Lk. 18:13; Jam. 4:8; 1 Jn. 1:9).
* **Verse 3**– The words the people are encouraged to say by Hosea continues in this verse and it is a genuine admission of their folly and wrongdoing. The people must acknowledge that no nation, no army and no object (idol, false god) can or will save them. Only God alone is capable of granting the freedom, comfort and salvation we all need and He helps the weak and the needy (Psa. 146:9; Isa. 43:11).
* **14:4-9– Blessings Renewed**
* **Verse 4**– This section implicitly emphasizes deliverance and God’s salvation for a people who love Him and seek after Him. This is ultimately seen in the Messianic Kingdom. In these days God will heal their apostasy and His love will abound (Isa. 57:18; Eph. 2:4). God’s anger is only turned away when sin is removed. What does that imply here?
* **Verses 5-6**­– God will be like dew to Israel and they will flourish because of Him and the nourishment He will provide (cf. Hos. 6:4). Their nourishment will be so overwhelming that they will increase and take firm roots like the majestic cedars of Lebanon. God is capable of turning a dire situation into one of life and hope.
* In v. 6, the idea continues by stating their shoots will sprout and they will be beautiful as the olive tree and sweet-smelling as the cedars of Lebanon. God’s original intention for the vine (Psa. 80:9-11) will now come to pass because of the Messiah (Jn. 15:1-8). The idea in these verses is life and spiritual increase.
* **Verse 7**– The *“they”* or *“those”* in this verse seems to reference the nations or peoples who would be influenced by this new Israel (cf. Matt. 5:13-16). If they do as the new Israel has done, they too will be blessed liked them producing, blossoming and being renown. The agricultural terms are used to describe the success and growth of God’s people.
* **Verse 8**–God distances Himself from idols and the folly of such things (Psa. 115:4-8; Isa. 44:6-20) and contrasts the idols inability to do anything with His power and ability to save, guide and nourish His people and those who love Him and seek Him (Lk. 15:20).
* **Verse 9**– The one who would heed the words of the prophet and the things God has said is described as wise (cf. Matt. 7:24-25) and understanding (Psa. 107:43; Prov. 1:5-6). The ones who follow God are always in the right and they shall not stumble but those who work evil and iniquity will constantly find themselves being tripped up and buried in the pit (Prov. 10:29).