



GOD'S LOVE FOR US NEVER FAILS

No matter how far and worst we are, in evil, corruption, hypocrisy, lack of repentance, and sin rooted in the heart. Our Lord's love for us overcomes all of this. He turns on each one of us like a good father to his stubborn son and a faithful husband to his unfaithful wife. And we have hope in the blood of Christ by repentance and returning again to the bosom of our Lord.

+ **The meaning of the name:** God saves (the same meaning of Jesus and Joshua) and the book really offers us God the Savior of his people

+ **Prophecy period:**

- Hosea from the prophets before the captivity.
- He lived in the Kingdom of Israel (the northern kingdom) about 200 years after the division of the kingdom (the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, during the reign of King Rehoboam the son of Solomon).
- Hosea the prophet, a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah. He prophesied before the captivity and attended the captivity of the northern kingdom.

+ **Writing conditions:**

- Hosea prophesied during the reign of one of the worst kings of Israel (Jeroboam the Second). At that time, there was chaos in the kingdom (before the kingdom of Assyria took Israel captive in 722 BC).
- The book of Hosea represents about 25 years of his experience, writing and prophecies.

+ **To whom is the book directed?** For the Kingdom of Israel, But we understand from the last verse in the book that the words are valid for all times, and therefore the book is directed to every human being.

+ **The purpose of the book:** To make us understand the purpose of our Lord as a loving father to mankind, who wants to save and heal it from the brokenness and sin in it.



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+ The key to understanding the book:

- The kingdom of Israel at that time was far from our Lord and had many sins and hypocrisy. It was still not very weak militarily because it was dependent on Assyria and Egypt.
- The first commandment our Lord made to the people: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength. You shall have no other gods before me." Breaking this commandment means a complete rejection of the path of our Lord.

+ Book Summary: God who loves us with eternal love in spite of our many sins.

1: Hosea and Gomer... and the state of Israel

- + Our Lord told Hosea to marry a sinful woman named Gomer! (chapter 1: 2, 3).
- + After that, Gomer sinned and committed adultery again, after her marriage to Hosea, and after she bore him 3 sons: two sons and a daughter (chapter 2, verse 5).
- + After that, our Lord said to Hosea a very strange thing: He told him to go and search for Gomer, and pay the debts that she owes, and return her again and love her as the first (Chapter 2, verse 14).
- + After that, our Lord made it clear that all of this is a symbol of the relationship between our Lord and his people Israel:
 - Marriage = Exodus from the land of Egypt, when he appeared to them on Mount Sinai and gave them his covenant, and they became his people... At that time, our Lord clearly commanded them that they worship Him alone and He is with them... This is the Old Testament.
 - Betrayal = what the Children of Israel did after our Lord entered them into the Promised Land with the goodness in it... They left our Lord and worshiped idols and the gods; of the peoples whom our Lord had expelled them from in front of the children of Israel.
 - Of course, the expected behavior, since the people violated the covenant, that our Lord also leaves the people forever... But our Lord did not do that.
 - Renewal of the covenant = Our Lord chose to go to the Children of Israel again and try to renew the covenant with them... and this is because He is a merciful, faithful and just God (chapter 2, verse 19 and 20).



- + After that, Hosea said that the result of this continuous betrayal will be defeat and captivity in the end... But there is hope! Because after that, they will repent and return to our Lord again... and a king like David will reign over them, who will return to them blessings and goodness again (chapter 3, verse 4 and 5).
- + A reference to Christ, of course, as a king over the Church of the New Testament, who gave her victory.
- + The first 3 chapters in them are a summary of all the ideas in the book: The people of our Lord betrayed our Lord... and our Lord will punish them for their repeated betrayal... But the mercy and love of our Lord is much stronger than the sin of man.. Our Lord always strives to bring human back to Him again.

What do we learn? Our Lord likened Himself to a very difficult analogy: a wonderful and faithful husband who was repeatedly betrayed by a wife who was very weak and did not find anyone to sympathize with her before him (this meaning is very clear also in Ezekiel 16). But our Lord remains faithful with us, He seeks us to restore us. All we have to do is to open our hearts and repent truly and continuously.

O Lord, give me this hope in You, my great God... the love that never fails... let me always look at your love and your cross, and know that you are opening your arms, waiting for me to come back and repent.

2: A rebuke and a warning to Israel from chapter 4 to chapter 10, Hosea talks about the reasons for Israel's betrayal, and the results of this betrayal.

+ **Ignorance:** and of course here, knowledge is not meant just information... What is meant is knowledge through a real personal relationship (as we say in the proverb, that if you did not live with someone, then you will not know him) (chapter 4, verse 6).

- Our Lord wants his people to know him through a personal relationship and a true test of his love for them... an experience that changes and shapes their lives.

+ **Hypocrisy and duplicity:** People were breaking the commandment and their lives were full of injustice... At the same time, they offered sacrifices to our Lord (as if there wasn't something wrong which they should repent first)... Of course, our Lord does not accept this worship (chapter 4, verse). 2 + chapter 5, verse 6).

- Other acts of worship...not just that! They worshiped strange gods with our Lord! (chapter 4, verse 12 and 13).
- Relying on someone other than the Lord... Relying on Egypt and Assyria (chapter 7 :11)
- Instead of trusting that our Lord is the one who will protect them, they want to be like other peoples and rely on their strength and armies! And our Lord said that all of this will turn against them, and that Assyria will rise up against them (chapter 9, 7).
- After that, as usual, in chapter 11, our Lord gives hope and expectancy for His people.
- + **Our Lord compares Himself to a good father who raises his son and teaches him to walk (chapter 11, verse 3 and 4).**
- But when the son grew up, he turned against the father and exploited the father gifts.
- The father was very angry at the betrayal and will punish the son... But he is still a son to him... Our Lord, in His mercy and forgiveness, is as if his heart ached and regretted his punishment, and he will return and be merciful again to his people (chapter 11, verse 8).
- And therefore, we understand that, yes, there is punishment and captivity from Assyria, but also there is hope for him to return.

+ **What do we learn?** We must examine ourselves, because it is very possible that we have one of these sins or more in one way or another... And our Lord is very clear that He does not accept sin... And if we were to be disciplined, we would examine ourselves immediately instead of blaming our Lord... And we trust that discipline God will take it off at the right time.

Oh Lord, test me and examine my heart and my thoughts, and if there are things that need to be controlled, intervene with your scalpel, O true doctor, Even if I do not understand and ache and grieve and grumble, I will know and understand later that it is a chastisement for good so as not to perish.



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3: God's salvation of his people In chapters 12 and 13, Hosea explains to them from history examples of their continued unfaithfulness

- + Jacob their grandfather who deceived his father Isaac in order to receive the blessing of the primogeniture ... Of course, before he repents and becomes Israel, who wrestled with God and was victorious (chapter 12).
- + Their worship of the golden calf when Moses was receiving the law (chapter 13: 2 ,6)\
- + Their choice of a king like other peoples...Saul, the king who, despite his good start, caused disasters after that (chapter 13, verse 10 and 11).

CHAPTER 14 COMES BACK TO HOPE AGAIN

- + In chapter 14, Hosea told the people to repent, but he knew that their repentance would be short and not continuous.. they apostate again (chapter 14, verse 1 and 2).
- + We see a wonderful promise from our Lord that He will heal Israel from this apostasy, and He will love them without reason (chapter 14, verse 4).
- + And this is sure... Because selfishness, pride, apostasy, brokenness, and sin that are rooted in the human heart can be healed, grace, strength and healing are required from the true doctor, our Lord... and this is what our Lord promises... and at that time, man He will be able to see our Lord's love for him, and love our Lord in return.
- + He likens Israel to a lily tree that struck strong roots in the earth, and brought forth many branches, with the advance of shade and fruits for all nations (chapter 14: 5 - 7).
- + This is like the promise of our Lord to Abraham that in him all the tribes of the earth will be blessed.
- + The book ends with a verse that summarizes or comments on the book: Who is wise who understands these words? The righteous will understand and walk, and the hypocrite will be rejected (chapter 14, verse 9).
- + This means that speech is valid for all ages... God is the same yesterday, today and forever... and man is also the same throughout time... and he always has a choice to walk in the way of our Lord or far from him... and while our Lord He will punish the sinner who refuses to repent, our Lord always wants to heal and save man from destruction.



+ **What do we learn?** The end is always hopeful, despite the many sins and faults, our Lord purifies man with His mercy and wisdom, gives him great blessing and turns him 180 degrees. All we have to do is trust in him and surrender our hearts and will to him.

○ God of miracles...Who changed the Samaritan woman and the tax collector...Let me come to you, I am confident that you will work for me, change me, and accept me, my good father.

+ **Verses summarizing the journey:**

When the Lord first spoke to Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: Go, take for yourself a wife of fornication and children of whoredom, because the land has committed fornication, forsaking the Lord. (Hosea 1: 2)

- A very difficult start.
- At that time, idolatry was widespread, and these rituals of worship included pornography, so some interpreted that Gomer was pagan.
- As the matter was, sure, it was very difficult for a righteous prophet. How difficult it was for a holy God that his people commit adultery behind other gods (worshipping a god other than God = betraying God).

He said: Call his name Lo-Ammi, for you are not my people, and I will not be your God. Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people, 'There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.' (Hosea 1: 9 - 10)

+ Names of the sons of Hosea:

1. Jezreel = God's seed (to think of the verse: What a person sows, he will also reap)
2. Lourhama = no mercy.
3. Lo-Ammi = You are not my people (we understand that Israel at one time will not be God's chosen people...after they rejected Christ and crucified him)...but the believers group (disciples, apostles, and those who believed in their words) fulfilled the prophecy that was said to them. For our father Abraham, his offspring will be in abundance like the sand of the sea (his sons who have the same faith) and the blessing of the new covenant is that we are not only the people of God, but His children (by adoption in Jesus Christ).



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+ This verse was used by St. Peter: “Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:10).

My people have perished from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you so that you do not priest to me. And because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children. (Hosea 4:6)

- As we said knowledge here = Knowing God well and personal relationship with God.
- Our Lord rebukes the people, not because they are ignorant, but because they rejected knowledge... I mean, rejecting the covenant and the relationship with our Lord.
- Of course, whoever does this has punishment and discipline with the aim that he woken up and returns to our Lord so that he does not perish.

I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God is more than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6)

- Verse used by our Lord Jesus.
- Meaning = not showing off.
- I mean, our lives will not remain full of injustice and sin, and we should offer a very ordinary sacrifice without repentance.



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