

Hosea 14 Commentary

PREVIOUS

NEXT

CLICK VERSE

To go directly to that verse

Hosea 10:1

Hosea 10:2

Hosea 10:3

Hosea 10:4

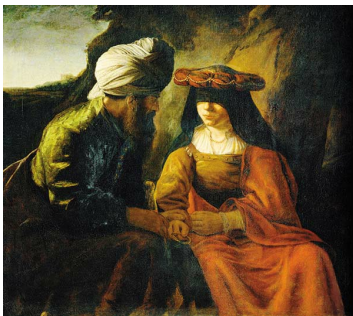
Hosea 10:5

Hosea 10:6

Hosea 10:7

Hosea 10:8

Hosea 10:9



Hosea's Unconditional Love for Gomer



Source: [ESV Global Study Bible](#)

OUTLINE OF HOSEA

I. The Prodigal Wife, Hosea 1:1-3:5

- A. Her Unfaithfulness, Hosea 1:1-11
- B. Her Punishment, Hosea 2:1-13
- C. Her Restoration and Israel's, Hosea 2:14-23
- D. Her Redemption, Hosea 3:1-5

II. The Prodigal People, Hosea 4:1-14:9

- A. The Message of Judgment, Hosea 4:1-10:15
 - 1. The indictment, Hosea 4:1-19
 - 2. The verdict, Hosea 5:1-15
 - 3. The plea of Israel, Hosea 6:1-3
 - 4. The reply of the Lord, Hosea 6:4-11

5. The crimes of Israel, Hosea 7:1-16
 6. The prophecy of judgment, Hosea 8:1-10:15
 - B. The Message of Restoration, Hosea 11:1-14:9
 1. God's love for the prodigal people, Hosea 11:1-11
 2. God's chastisement of the prodigal people, Hosea 11:12-13:16
 3. God's restoration of the prodigal people, Hosea 14:1-9
- Borrow [Ryrie Study Bible](#) - page 1292

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

- return (KJV): Ho 6:1 12:6 1Sa 7:3,4 2Ch 30:6-9 Isa 55:6,7 Jer 3:12-14 4:1 Joe 2:12,13 Zec 1:3,4 Ac 26:18-20
- thou (KJV): Ho 13:9 Jer 2:19 La 5:16 Eze 28:14-16

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

Matthew Henry - Verses 1-3. Israel is exhorted to return unto Jehovah, from their sins and idols, by faith in his mercy, and grace through the promised Redeemer, and by diligently attending on his worship and service. Take away iniquity; lift it off as a burden we are ready to sink under, or as the stumbling-block we have often fallen over. Take it all away by a free and full forgiveness, for we cannot strike any of it off. Receive our prayer graciously. They do not say what good they seek, but refer it to God. It is not good of the world's showing, but good of God's giving. They were to consider their sins, their wants, and the remedy; and they were to take, not sacrifices, but words stating the desires of their hearts, and with them to address the Lord. The whole forms a clear description of the nature and tendency of a sinner's conversion to God through Jesus Christ. As we draw near to God by the prayer of faith, we should first beseech him to teach us what to ask. We must be earnest with him to take away all iniquity.

Hosea 14:2 Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips.

- with, Job 34:31,32 Joe 2:17 Mt 6:9-13 Lu 11:2-4 18:13
- away: 2Sa 12:13 24:10 Job 7:21 Ps 51:2-10 Isa 6:7 Eze 36:25,26 Mic 7:19 Zec 3:4 Joh 1:29 Ro 11:27 Tit 2:14 Heb 10:4 1Jn 1:7 3:5
- receive: etc. or, give good, Mt 7:11 Lu 11:13 15:21-24 Eph 1:6,7 2:7,8 2Ti 1:9
- the calves: Ps 69:30,31 Heb 13:15 1Pe 2:5,9

Related Passages:

Psalm 51:16-17 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. 17The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips. Having exposed Israel's sin throughout the book, Hosea now extends God's gracious invitation to repentance. The people are not told to bring sacrifices or religious rituals but "words"—a sincere confession of sin and an appeal for God's mercy. True repentance begins with an honest acknowledgment of guilt and wholehearted dependence on God's grace. The request, "Take away all iniquity," recognizes that only God can forgive sin, while "receive us graciously" appeals solely to His unmerited favor. Instead of offering animal sacrifices, the repentant people promise to offer "the fruit of our lips," that is, sacrifices of heartfelt praise and thanksgiving flowing from forgiven hearts (cf. Ps. 51:16-17; Heb. 13:15). God has always desired genuine repentance and worship from the heart rather than mere outward ritual.

Hosea 14:3 "Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; Nor will we say again, 'Our god,' To the work of our hands; For in You the orphan finds mercy."

- Asshur: Ho 5:13 7:11 8:9 12:1 2Ch 16:7 Ps 146:3 Jer 31:18-22
- we will not: De 17:16 Ps 20:7,8 33:17 Isa 30:2,16 31:3 36:8
- neither: Ho 14:8 2:17 Isa 1:29 2:20 27:9 Eze 36:25 37:23 43:7-9 Mic 5:10-14 Zec 13:2
- for: Ex 22:22-24 Ps 10:14 68:5 146:9 Pr 23:10,11 Joh 14:18

THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; Nor will we say again, 'Our god,' To the work of our hands; For in You the orphan finds mercy. This verse beautifully expresses the marks of genuine repentance. Israel renounces the very things in which she had placed her confidence: foreign alliances ("Assyria will not save us"), military strength ("we will not ride on horses," likely an allusion to Egypt's cavalry; cf. Isa. 31:1), and idolatry ("we will not say again, 'Our god,' to the work of our hands"). The nation finally acknowledges that no political power, military resource, or man-made idol can provide the salvation that belongs to the LORD alone. Instead, Israel casts herself upon God's mercy, confessing, "For in You the orphan finds mercy." The orphan, having no earthly protector or provider, pictures one who is utterly helpless and completely dependent upon God. True repentance always involves turning from every false refuge and turning to the Lord alone, recognizing that He is the only Savior who graciously receives and restores those who humbly trust in Him. (cf. Ps. 20:7; Isa. 31:1; Jer. 17:5-8).

Hosea 14:4 I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.

- heal: Ho 11:7 Ex 15:26 Isa 57:18 Jer 3:22 5:6 8:22 14:7 17:14 33:6 Mt 9:12,13
- I will love: De 7:7,8 Zep 3:17 Ro 3:24 Eph 1:6 2:4-9 2Ti 1:9 Tit 3:4

I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them. Hosea concludes on a magnificent note of grace and restoration. After exposing Israel's persistent rebellion, idolatry, and spiritual adultery, God promises not merely to forgive His people but to heal their apostasy, removing the very condition that had separated them from Him. His declaration, "I will love them freely," emphasizes that His love is sovereign, unmerited, and not conditioned upon Israel's worthiness or performance. Because His righteous anger has been fully satisfied, His covenant love can once again be poured out upon His repentant people. This fitting conclusion echoes the central message of Hosea's own life: just as Hosea loved ('āhab) Gomer and graciously restored her despite her unfaithfulness, so the LORD will one day love Israel again and restore her according to His covenant promises. Thus, the book that begins with Israel's spiritual adultery ends with God's triumphant grace. The gospel is always good news for the repentant backslider, for God's final word to those who return to Him is not condemnation but forgiveness, healing, and restoration.

Hosea 14:5 I will be like the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon.

- as the dew: De 32:2 2Sa 23:4 Job 29:19 Ps 72:6 Pr 19:12 Isa 18:4 26:19 Isa 44:3 Mic 5:7
- he shall: Song 2:1,2,16 4:5 Mt 6:28 Lu 12:27
- grow: or, blossom
- cast: Heb. strike, 2Ki 19:30 Ps 72:16 Isa 27:6 35:2 Eze 17:22-24 Eph 3:17

I will be like the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon.

Hosea 14:6 His shoots will sprout, And his beauty will be like the olive tree And his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

- branches: Ps 80:9-11 Eze 17:5-8 31:3-10 Da 4:10-15 Mt 13:31 Joh 15:1 Ro 11:16-24
- spread: Heb. go
- and his beauty: Ps 52:8 128:3
- his smell: Ge 27:27 Song 4:11-15 2Co 2:14,15 Php 4:18

His shoots will sprout, And his beauty will be like the olive tree And his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon

Hosea 14:7 Those who live in his shadow Will again raise grain, And they will blossom like the vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

- that: Ps 91:1 Song 2:3 Isa 32:1,2
- revive: Ho 6:2 Ps 85:6 138:7 Isa 61:11 Joh 11:25 12:24 1Co 15:36-38
- grow: or, blossom, Ho 14:5 *marg: Song 6:11 Zec 8:12
- scent: or, memorial

Those who live in his shadow Will again raise grain, And they will blossom like the vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon

Hosea 14:8 O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like a luxuriant cypress; From Me comes your fruit.

- What: Ho 14:2,3 Job 34:32 Ac 19:18-20 1Th 1:9 1Pe 1:14-16 4:3,4
- I have: Job 33:27 Jer 31:18-20 Lu 15:20 Joh 1:47,48
- I am: Isa 41:19 55:13 60:13
- From me: Joh 1:16 15:1-8 Ga 5:22,23 Eph 5:9 Php 1:11 2:13 4:13 Jas 1:17

O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like a luxuriant cypress; From Me comes your fruit - The book of Hosea closes with God's gracious assurance that the relationship between Himself and His restored people has been fully renewed. The rhetorical question, "What more have I to do with idols?", signifies the complete and final end of Israel's idolatry. The LORD Himself has decisively broken its power, so that idols no longer have any place in His people's lives. Instead of seeking lifeless gods that cannot hear or help, Israel will discover that it is the LORD alone who answers their prayers and watches over them with continual care. The imagery then shifts to a luxuriant cypress, an evergreen tree symbolizing stability, protection, and enduring life. Although Israel had often sought fruitfulness from Baal, the supposed fertility god, the LORD declares, "From Me comes your fruit." Every spiritual blessing, every measure of fruitfulness, and every evidence of life originates in Him alone. Hosea ends where true worship always ends—with God as the sole source of His people's life, protection, provision, and fruitfulness (cf. Ps. 1:3; Jn. 15:4-5; Jas. 1:17).

Hosea 14:9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk in them, But transgressors will stumble in them.

- wise: Ps 107:43 Pr 1:5,6 4:18 Jer 9:12 Da 12:10 Mt 13:11,12 Joh 8:47 Joh 18:37
- for: Ge 18:25 De 32:4 Job 34:10-12,18,19 Ps 19:7,8 119:75,128 Eze 18:25 33:17-20 Zep 3:5 Ro 7:12
- and the: Job 17:9 Ps 84:5,7 Pr 10:29 Isa 8:13-15 Mt 11:19
- but: Lu 2:34 4:28,29 7:23 Joh 3:19,20 9:39 15:24 Ro 9:32,33 2Co 2:15,16 2Th 2:9-12 1Pe 2:7,8

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk in them, But transgressors will stumble in them Hosea concludes with a timeless call for every reader to respond wisely to the message of his prophecy. True wisdom is not merely intellectual knowledge but spiritual discernment that recognizes God's truth and responds in obedient faith. Such wisdom is found only in those whose minds have been enlightened by God and whose hearts are devoted to Him (cf. 1 Cor. 2:6-8; Col. 2:3; 2 Tim. 1:7). The "ways of the LORD" are always right because they reflect His holy, righteous, and unchanging character. In contrast to "a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Pr. 16:25), God's path always leads to life, blessing, and fellowship with Him. The same divine truth, however, produces two radically different responses: the righteous walk in God's ways, finding life and stability, while transgressors stumble over them, bringing judgment upon themselves through unbelief and disobedience. Hosea thus ends with a clear choice before every generation: walk in the Lord's righteous ways and live, or reject them and stumble to your own ruin.