

Hosea 11

-Chapter 11 is one of the greatest chapters in the entire Old Testament – it is a chapter on God's love for his people (remember Hosea and Gomer)

Hosea 1.1-4 – God gets sentimental

V1 – Read Exodus 4.22-23 – Israel was a "son" to God

-The Jewish people were God's chosen people

V2 – God sent his prophets to get Israel to repent

-Result of the preaching of the prophets? Israel went further into idolatry

V3 – Such a beautiful verse – **What had God done for Israel?** Taken him as a helpless baby

-Remember the drought in the days of Joseph – also remember that Israel was truly helpless while in Egyptian slavery

V4 – **What image of God do we see here?** He was willing to help anyone in distress (like helping your child learn how to ride a bicycle – much patience is needed, but parents are willing to make the sacrifice)

-At the end of the day, the farmer takes the yoke off the oxen; this is what God had done for Israel

Hosea 11.5-7 – God gets harsh

V5 – Very ironic – they would not be going back to Egypt

-But where would they be going? To Assyria

V6 – The anger of God picks up

-What would the attack be like? Like a whirling sword (imagine a giant food blender or processor today)

V7 – The Northern Kingdom was determined to disobey God

Hosea 11.8-11

V8 – It is almost as if God is crying

-Admah and Zeboiim – other cities destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah

-See *Deut. 29.23* and *Jeremiah 49.18*

V9 – **Why did he hesitate to carry out punishment against Israel?** Because he is God (not subject to anger as a man is)

V10 – God continued to be hopeful, but it was really hopeless

-God is pictured as a lion that calls the other animals out of the forest

V 11 – God wanted to settle his people back into their houses

V 12 – Back to reality

-What was the situation really like? Lies, deceit, unruliness, unfaithfulness

If we could only see how God was in anguish over us, we might be less likely to sin
-we see the great pain that the Northern Kingdom had caused God to have

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