



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series
Supports Session 10: The Restoration Promised
Sermon Title: “Embrace the Savior” (Hosea 14:1,9; John 3:16)

Connection to Hosea 14:1-9

Regardless of the severity of their apostasy and brokenness, the solution for Israel was simple: turn to a loving compassionate God for salvation. The God of Israel offered hope of salvation and restoration to the privileged place as the children of God.

Introduction/Opening

In society, most adults identify themselves in terms of an occupation or life pursuit. Some may work as plumbers or managers, while others simply want to be known as grandmothers. It is a vocational or life choice reflecting financial necessity or emotional needs. However, the community must accept the plumber, manager, or grandmother.

Hosea recognized that the nation of Israel needed to embrace the Savior that had clearly revealed Himself. He was the God of the covenant. Salvation, in the fullness of time, was to be perfected and completed in the coming of Jesus Christ. Hosea preached that embracing God would meet humanity’s greatest need.

Outline

1. God is Salvation

- a. The name of Hosea the prophet means “God is salvation.” The identity of God, His revealed name of Yahweh or Jehovah has the same meaning: God is Savior, Salvation. The revealed identity of God is Savior. This is whom He holds Himself out to be. He presents Himself as the only Redeemer.
- b. To Adam and Eve, God presented Himself as Savior. He promised to crush the head of the deceiver (Gen. 3:15). At the burning bush, God told Moses He was aware of the agony of the sons of Jacob and promised He had come to deliver them from bondage (Ex. 3:8). Isaiah prompted King Ahaz to request a sign that the Lord was willing to rescue him from his foes. When Ahaz declined in unbelief, Isaiah still delivered the promise of a virgin birth of Immanuel (Is. 7:10-14). Jesus is the final perfect step in this revelation. He is God incarnate, the magnificent Savior.
- c. The people of Israel were corrupt idolaters, self-destructive, and willing to ally themselves with any foreign power that promised them help. The problems were complex, yet the solution presented by Hosea was simple: turn to God and live (6:1-3).
- d. God presents Himself consistently as Savior. This self-identification is central in His revelation of Himself. He is working out His redemption for His creation.

2. God offered Himself

- a. An architectural graduate may be hired and demonstrate great potential for changing the skylines of a city. However, until the architect completes his work, our skyline remains the same.
- b. Jesus, God's Son, presented Himself as Savior. Born of Mary, reared in Nazareth, baptized in the Jordan River. He experienced hunger, thirst, and sorrow. He died on a Roman cross as His disciples saw His blood pouring forth from mortal wounds.
- c. Jesus came as promised. He completed the work proclaimed by the prophets and sat down at the right hand of God the Father.

3. Jesus Must be Embraced

- a. Hosea proclaimed that Israel should return to Yahweh and praise Him with their lips (14:1) This human acceptance would complete the salvation offered by God.
- b. Jesus reveals that He stands at the door of our hearts requesting entrance by knocking (Rev. 3:20). Once the door is opened to Him, He enters as Savior, and we are welcomed into His family.
- c. Jesus will forgive and accept us. God's love is for all, with Jesus offering eternal life to every human embracing and welcoming Him. He is worthy of our embrace.
- d. If there is no embrace of Jesus, there is no salvation. However, with our embrace, Jesus is proud to claim us before the Father.

Conclusion

For a plumber to be successful, the locals must call him when their sinks back up. For Grandma Smith to be the matriarch, the family members must cherish her as their grandparent. Jesus has revealed and presented Himself as the only Savior, but we must embrace and trust Him for that salvation. He awaits our embrace with open arms.

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