

The Tender Heart of a Loving God

Hosea 11

Introduction:

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

1 John 3:1

1. Hosea 11 marvelously reveals to us the endless, abiding love of God for His children.
2. Israel had rebelled against God in every conceivable way (vs. 12), yet when we study this chapter we are amazed as we catch a glimpse of the tender heart of a loving God towards Israel.
3. Let’s study this chapter and see the tender heart of our loving God.

God’s heart is to _____ His children.

1. Notice how Hosea emphasizes this in chapter 11.
 - God loved Israel and called them out of Egypt. vs. 1
→ *“The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” Deuteronomy 7:7-8*
 - God lovingly taught Israel their first _____ . vs. 3; cf. Isaiah 1:2
 - God _____ Israel when they were sick. vs. 3; cf. Psalm 107:19-21
 - As a loving Father, God drew Israel to an earthly lot for an inheritance. vs. 4a
 - God _____ them from their enemies and graciously provided for them. vs. 4b
2. Did you know the same is true of the church, the body of Christ today?
 - Israel was an earthly people with earthly blessings.
 - We are a heavenly people with _____ blessings. Ephesians 1:3, 2:6; Romans 8:28-32

God's heart is to _____ His children when they go astray.

1. With a father's love, God had sent the prophets to call Israel back to Himself.
vs. 2, 7; cf. 2 Kings 17:7, 13-14
2. Today, God calls to us through His written Word. It will bring _____
when we err, call us to do that which is right, and instruct us in how to do it.
 - *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*
2 Timothy 3:15-17

God's heart is to _____ when He must discipline His children.

1. Israel refused to return to God but continued backsliding (turning away) from God (vs. 5, 7). God had no choice – in love He had to bring chastisement. vs. 6
2. But we see God literally _____ over this thought in verse 8.
3. As a good father, God will chasten us when we go astray, but it is always for our _____. 1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:11

God's heart is to _____ His children to fellowship.

1. Because of God's deep love for Israel, He would not execute the fierceness of His anger. He would bring correction, but not make a full end of them.
2. In fact, in verse 10 we catch a glimpse of a future remnant of Jews who will _____ and turn to the Lord and desire to walk with the Lord.
3. All of this prophetically looks forward to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, when Christ will roar as a lion and _____ to this earth. Joel 3:16-17
4. Christian, have you strayed from your heavenly Father? God longs for you to simply turn to Him and acknowledge your wayward course. His arms are open to _____ you, and once again enjoy sweet fellowship together.
2 Corinthians 6:17-18, 7:9-11