

## Thy Kingdom Come Hosea 14

### Introduction:

1. Chapter after chapter, Hosea has hammered Israel for their sin, wickedness, and idolatry. He has prophesied of coming judgment in no uncertain terms.
2. Like a breath of fresh air, Hosea's prophecy ends on an incredibly positive note.
3. He prophesies of a future time in which God will be reconciled to His wife, Israel. At this time, Israel will enjoy the establishment of a kingdom on this earth that will be unparalleled in the history of mankind.
4. Jesus taught Israel to pray to the Father, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*" **Matthew 6:10**
5. Israel has always been an earthly people with earthly promises of an earthly kingdom. If obedient to God, God promised them a kingdom that would be "*as the days of heaven upon the earth.*" **Deuteronomy 11:21**
6. In Jesus' day they were still waiting and instructed to pray for this kingdom. After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were still in anticipation of this kingdom. **Acts 1:6**
7. Jesus revealed to the apostle Paul that there would be an intervening period of grace before God's kingdom program with Israel is culminated and brought to fruition.
  - It is called the dispensation of the grace of God. **Ephesians 3:2-3**
  - After this grace period, God's kingdom program with Israel will continue, Christ will return to this earth, saving Israel from their enemies and establishing their glorious kingdom on earth. **Romans 11:25-27; 2 Peter 1:19-21, 3:2-4, 10**
8. This is the subject of Hosea 14. Hosea lays out for us what will happen in the last days, before and after Israel's kingdom is established on earth.

### Israel - in a fallen state. vs. 1

1. The call is for Israel to return to the Lord thy God. Why is this? Because Israel had fallen by their iniquity (perversity, evil).
  - The word "fallen" is the idea of stumbling and falling.
2. All through this book, Hosea details how Israel had fallen from their privileged status of being the wife of God. **Jeremiah 3:8**
3. Christ came to this earth to call Israel to repent of their fallen state and to prepare for their heavenly kingdom to come to earth. **Matthew 4:17**
  - They were to prepare themselves as a bride waiting for her bridegroom. **Matthew 25:1-13**
4. Christ, their Messiah came, but what did Israel do?
  - They tripped and stumbled, rejecting Christ. **Romans 9:31-33**
  - Once again, Israel had fallen, but Paul revealed that through their fall, salvation had come to the Gentiles. **Romans 11:11-12**

### Israel - in a repentant state. vs. 2-3

1. The Bible prophesies that in the last days there will be a believing remnant of Israel that will turn to Jesus Christ in repentance. **Hosea 6:1-3; Jeremiah 50:4-5; Isaiah 26:16-18**
  - This remnant will find grace in the wilderness. **Jeremiah 31:1-2**

2. Isn't it precious to know that God is simply looking for a sincere, repentant heart? When He sees this, He is quick to forgive and extend grace. **Jeremiah 3:10, 12-13**
3. In **Hosea 14:2-3**, God gives Israel the words that He longs to hear come from their hearts.
  - An acknowledgement of sin - vs. 2
  - A desire for His grace - vs. 2
  - A recognition of their need for Him and Him alone - vs. 3
4. There is no "Plan B." No longer would they look to Assyria (Asshur), horses, or false gods for protection. They now realize that in God alone they will find mercy.
5. God was simply looking for true confession that came from the wellspring of their hearts.
  - Did you know this is what God is looking for today? God desires for people to believe His Word, confessing to Him from their hearts their need of Jesus Christ. **Romans 10:8-9**

#### **Israel - in a kingdom state. vs. 4-8**

1. In this passage we have a wonderful description of what God promises to do for Israel in their future kingdom.
  - *"I will heal their backsliding..."* God will accomplish this by writing His law in their hearts. **Jeremiah 31:33, 32:38-40**
  - *"I will love them freely..."* He calls them Israel my glory. **Isaiah 46:13**
  - *"Mine anger is turned away from him."* **Jeremiah 32:37**
2. In verses 5-7 Hosea mentions Lebanon three times. The Lebanon Mountains form the northwest boundary of Israel's Promised Land.
  - There are two parallel mountain ranges that stretch 100 miles up the Mediterranean coast.
  - In between these snow-capped, beautiful mountains was a fertile valley known for its rich and luscious vegetation.
  - Lebanon became a symbol of fruitfulness and fertility.
3. Israel's kingdom will be a time of incredible prosperity and fruitfulness. **Jeremiah 33:9**
  - Israel will grow and prosper in beauty like the lily, but have the stability of the mighty cedar trees of Lebanon. vs. 5
  - No longer cursed among the nations, Israel will be as a sweet aroma to the Gentile nations. The cedars of Lebanon gave off a fragrant smell. vs. 6
  - The Gentile nations will dwell under Israel's shadow, returning to Jerusalem each year to pay homage to Israel's Messiah. vs. 7; **Zechariah 14:16**
  - A nation that was dead will be revived, brought to life, and will grow as the vine. vs. 7
4. Israel will be the fruitful vine that God had intended for them to be because they will finally understand where their fruit is found - in Jesus Christ. vs. 8; **John 15:4-5**
5. Those who are prudent and wise will know and understand these things. God is not through with Israel. He will keep every promise He has made to them. vs. 9; **Romans 11:25-26; Jeremiah 31:31, 36-37**