

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

November 29, 2017

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Come Back to God

Hosea 6:1-3

Being invited to something makes people feel welcome and wanted. Whether to a party, a wedding, or some other gathering, having someone invite you can be a big deal! In this passage, God himself issues an invitation, specifically to those who are neck deep in sin and from a human standpoint totally hopeless. Have you ever been there? Have you ever been so burdened by your sinfulness and your sins, so discouraged over what you have done, and so overwhelmed by thought of coming back to God that you didn't even know how to take the first step? Were things ever so bad that despite all you knew about God, you feared deep down in your heart he didn't want you.

God eagerly awaits restoring you!

Does this passage represent genuine or fake repentance?

1. Does Israel admit her guilt?

The word return means essentially "to repent" as will be seen later.

2. Does Israel want a quick fix?

Verse 2 is taken by some to mean that Israel thinks they can avoid the disastrous consequences God has warned about,

but they could also be read as recognizing that God restores quickly when people truly repent.

3. What does the context argue?

God is disappointed in verses 4ff, but that disappointment is that Israel has not prayed this prayer, at least not sincerely. This passage's connections with the previous verses and the cry of this confession to know God lines up with what God desires in 6:6, so this prayer should be seen as genuine.

I. Pursue God by repenting of your sins (vv 1-2).

A. The call of the confession

1. Sinners are encouraged to come.
2. Sinners are encouraged to return.

B. The promises for the confession

1. God promises to heal wounds.
2. God promises to give new life.
3. God promises to restore fellowship.

II. Pursue God by seeking to know him (v 3).

A. The call to know God

B. The promises for knowing God

1. Those who pursue God wholly find him certainly.
2. Those who pursue God hungrily will be refreshed.

“The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

Revelation 22:17