

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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The God Who Won't Quit Hosea 1:10-2:1

The verses we looked at last week paint a bleak picture of Israel's future. God starts by warning punishment is coming, then announces he will have no mercy on the nation, and finally states that the Israelites are not his people, and he is not their God. The heaviness of those verses is almost enough to drive a God-fearing Israelite to despair. The outlook is bleak, and the question remains, "Is there any hope?"

Then, like a light switch thrown on unexpectedly in a dark room, Hosea suddenly and abruptly switches to a message of hope for the future beyond the judgment. This passage is especially helpful for those who, like Israel may be feeling the sting of their sin. They have mourned and seen the exceeding awfulness of their wicked choices to the point where they wonder, "Is there any hope?" To such repentant, sober-minded followers of God Hosea answers, "Yes, yes there is."

God won't quit on you, so don't you quit on him.

This section in Hosea is a part of the opening oracle of the book, stretching from 1:2 through 2:1. The first part details

God's judgment, and the second part abruptly shows the hope beyond that judgment.

I. God will not quit on his promises (1:10-11)

A. God will keep his promises to the patriarchs.

The harsh statements found in the first 9 verses of this passage are entirely justified once we begin to discover how bad the nation of Israel really was. But they raise the question, "What about all the promises God made to Israel's ancestors? Is God still planning on fulfilling those?" The answer is "Yes, he is." After the judgment will come a time of national revival wherein God will keep all of his promises.

1. God will keep his promise to Abraham that his descendants would be innumerable (v 10, cf Genesis 22:17).
2. God will keep his promise to David that a ruler would sit on his throne forever (v 11, cf 2 Samuel 7:8-16).

B. God will keep his promises to believers

1. God has promised to never condemn believers (Romans 8:1)
2. God has promised to reward our suffering with greater glory (Romans 8:18)
3. God has promised to work all things together for good (Romans 8:28)
4. God has promised never to tempt beyond a believer's ability (1 Corinthians 10:13)
5. God has promised to give sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9)
6. God has promised believers can have victory over the flesh (Galatians 5:16)

7. God has promised to sanctify believers completely (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

II. God will not quit on his people

A. God will not quit on the nation of Israel.

1. God will renew his relationship with Israel (vv 1:10; 2:1).
2. God will reunite Israel and Judah (v 1:11).
3. God will rule over the nation (v 1:11).

Some debate how exactly these verses will be fulfilled. They argue that this is a symbolic way of referring to God's blessings on the church. While Paul will later use verse 2:1 to include Gentiles (Romans 9:25, more on that in a later lesson), this passage originally referred to Israel. While certain parts of the promise may be applied to the church generally, the promises made to Israel still must be fulfilled.

B. God will not quit on believers.

God didn't quit on Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah, Peter, James, Jude, or the church of Corinth, and he won't quit on you, either.

III. God will not quit on his purpose.

A. God's purpose is to purify his people (cf Hebrews 12:5-11)

1. You should accept God's discipline.
2. You should endure God's discipline.
3. You should profit from God's discipline.

B. God purpose is to restore his people.

1. God desires restored blessing (v 11).

The phrase “go up from the land is a difficult one to interpret. The best understanding is that Israel is growing [flourishing] after being sown in the land again. This coincides with the meaning of Jezreel (God scatters/sows) and is an image used later in Hosea (2:21-23; 6:3).

2. God desires restored fellowship (v2:1, cf 1 John 1:6).