

Hosea: The Husband and the Harlot The Faithful Father

One of the great Biblical descriptions of God is that of a faithful Father...

“This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, ‘Let my son go, so he may worship me.’” (Exod. 4:22-23)

Hosea 11 provides a beautiful portrait of the Fatherhood of God with His son Israel...

- **Fathered in love** – “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” (Hosea 11:1)

The son’s rejection – “But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.” (v. 2)

- **Trained with care** – “It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms...” (v. 3a)

The son’s ignorance – “...but they did not realize it was I who healed them.” (v. 3b)

- **Led by mercy** – “I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck...” (v. 4a)
- **Sustained with provision** – “...and bent down to feed them.” (v. 4b)

The son’s consequence – “Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? Swords will flash in their cities, will destroy the bars of their gates and put an end to their plans. My people are determined to turn from me.” (vv. 5-7a)

- **Protected by grace** – “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim. For I am God, and not man – the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath.” (vv. 8-9)

“They will follow the LORD; He will roar like a lion. When He roars, His children will come trembling from the west...I will settle them in their homes,” declares the LORD. (vv. 10, 11b)

The Father would call another “Son” out from Egypt to bring about His final salvation...

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” (Matt. 2:14-15)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. (Rom. 5:1-2)