

HOSEA 11 – GOD'S FATHERLY COMPASSION

3rd December 2006

Hosea 11:1-4

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them.

Hosea 11:5-7

"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. Even if they call to the Most High, he will by no means exalt them.

Hosea 11:8-9

"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.

Hosea 11:10-11

They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion.

When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.

They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria.

I will settle them in their homes, declares the LORD.

Map 25 The division of the Kingdom

- Kingdom of Judah
- Kingdom of Israel
- Philistines



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and out of Egypt I called my son.

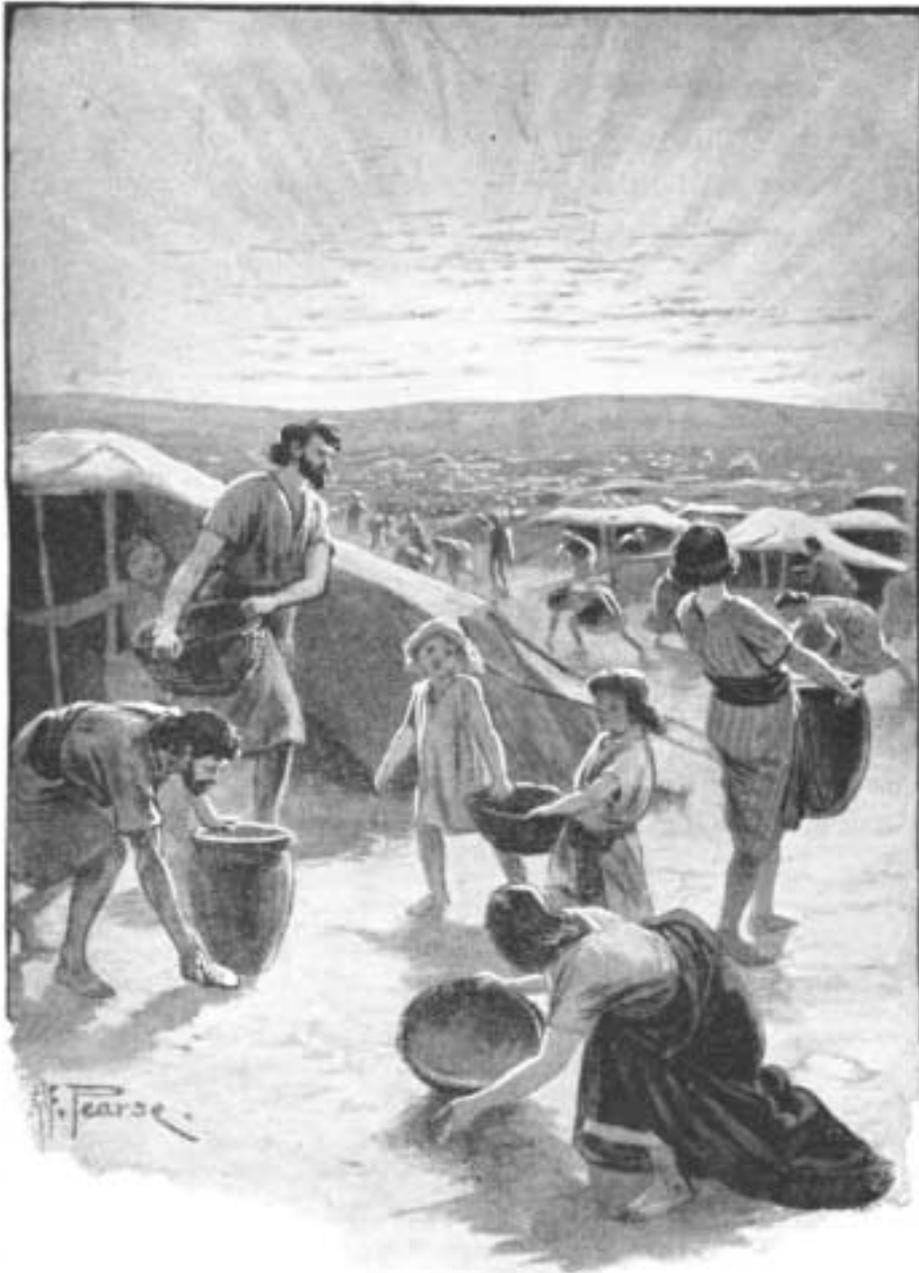


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The “Gospel” in Hosea

- God the Father adopts mankind and gives us good gifts
- We rebel, like unruly teenagers
- God’s fatherly compassion wants to forgive, although his holy justice is to punish
- God the Father acted to save us before we repented

All my compassion is aroused...

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . .” (John 3:16).
- “This is love: not that we loved God, but he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4 :10).
- “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”.(Romans 5:8)
- “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

Discussion questions

- What attributes do you think a perfect father should have?
- Has what has been said today changed your view of God the Father?
- What are your “Baals”? How could they be made to serve God rather than supplanting him?