

The Voices of God to Israel: The Minor Prophets

6 – THE CHARGES AGAINST ISRAEL - PART 3 (HOSEA 11:12-14:9)

I. The Final Charge (Hosea 11:12-13:16)

A. Israel's Unfaithfulness (Hosea 11:12-12:2)

- The Lord declares that Israel has been deceitful in its dealings with him.
- He acknowledges that, at that point, Judah still walks with God.
- Israel's pursuits are futile, feeds on the wind, as she makes alliances with Assyria and Egypt.
- The Lord also brings charges against Judah and will punish his people for their sins.

B. The Example of Jacob (Hosea 12:3-6)

- The Lord reflects on certain events from Jacob's life to reflect their relationship.
- He calls Israel to return and observe mercy and justice with his help.

C. Israel's Sin (Hosea 12:7-14)

- The Lord points out that Israel is enriched with deceitfulness and economic dishonesty.
- Israel boldly proclaims that no one will find iniquity or sin in her.
- The Lord declares he will make them live in tents again as they did in the wilderness.
- The Lord has spoken by his prophets and dreams, but they continued to worship idols.
- Israel has provoked the Lord to anger with her sin and he will repay her evil.

D. The Coming Judgment (Hosea 13:1-16)

- At one time Ephraim was exalted among the tribes of Israel, but he leads the nation to sin.
- They sin more and more, as they offer human sacrifices to their idols.
- Israel will become momentary as the morning fog, smoke or chaff from the threshing floor.
- The Lord proclaims he is Israel's God and has always been. Yet they forgot him.
- The Lord will become a destroyer to Israel and punish her.
- However, as she is destroyed, the Lord still proclaims that he is their help.
- Israel asked for a king and the Lord gave them one and took him away in judgment.

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- Israel's sin is such that there will be no compassion from the Lord.
- Judgment is coming and Samaria will be held accountable for her guilt.

II. The Final Exhortation (Hosea 14:1-9)

A. The Call to Repentance (Hosea 14:1-3)

- The prophet calls Israel to return to the Lord because they have stumbled in their sin.
- They are to approach the Lord with words of repentance and acknowledge that there is no other help.
- They must proclaim that there are no other gods and that there is mercy in the Lord.

B. The Promise (Hosea 14:4-8)

- The Lord states that he will heal their backsliding and love them freely.
- The Lord will be refreshing to Israel and she will prosper as a nation.
- Ephraim will renounce the idols and the Lord will be their source.

C. The Way of Wisdom (Hosea 14:9)

- The prophet calls the reader to consider the words of this prophecy, if they are wise.
- The reader is to know that the ways of the Lord are right and righteous walk in them.
- However, transgressors or sinners will stumble at the ways of the Lord.