

POWER HOUR

8/23/2026

Lesson Text:
Hosea 11:1-11

Related Scriptures:
Matthew 2:13-15; 11:28-30;
Genesis 14:1-8; 19:15-25;
Deuteronomy 29:22-29;
Hosea 5:3-15

“GOD’S LOVE FOR ISRAEL”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: No, I will not unleash my fierce anger. I will not completely destroy Israel, for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you, and I will not come to destroy. Hosea 11:9 NLT

Time: 758-714 B.C.

Place: Israel

Hosea 11:1-11 NLT

¹ “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt. ² But the more I called to him, the farther he moved from me, offering sacrifices to the images of Baal and burning incense to idols. ³ I myself taught Israel[b] how to walk, leading him along by the hand. But he doesn’t know or even care that it was I who took care of him. ⁴ I led Israel along with my ropes of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him. ⁵ “But since my people refuse to return to me, they will return to Egypt and will be forced to serve Assyria. ⁶ War will swirl through their cities; their enemies will crash through their gates. They will destroy them, trapping them in their own evil plans. ⁷ For my people are determined to desert me. They call me the Most High, but they don’t truly honor me. ⁸ “Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows. ⁹ No, I will not unleash my fierce anger. I will not completely destroy Israel, for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you, and I will not come to destroy. ¹⁰ For someday the people will follow me. I, the Lord, will roar like a lion. And when I roar, my people will return trembling from the west. ¹¹ Like a flock of birds, they will come from Egypt. Trembling like doves, they will return from Assyria. And I will bring them home

again," says the Lord.

INTRODUCTION

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. In his time, Israel was having a period of economic stability, yet the people shamelessly broke God's Commandments (Hosea 4:1-2).

The first two chapters of Hosea tell the story of Hosea's marriage to Gomer, an adulterous woman who represented unfaithful Israel. The remaining chapters underscore that illustration given in Hosea's life. Gomer, like Israel, was rejected for a time. Yet, just as Hosea shockingly took her back, God demonstrated His astounding compassion by redeeming Israel. The early years of Hosea's ministry were peaceful, but he lived to see Assyria destroy Israel; he saw Israel become "not my [God's] people" (Hos. 1:9). The astonishing message that resonates with us, however, is not God's judgment but His compassion to restore His undeserving people.

Additional Scripture Readings

God's Anger against Israel. Deuteronomy 29:22-29.

God's Wrath Is Like a Lion's Roar. Amos 3:1-11

Israel's Inability to Return to God. Hosea 5:3-15.

God's Wrath Leads to Repentance. Psalms 78:32-38.

God Lifts His People's Burden Isaiah 10:20-27.

The Easy Burden of Jesus Matthew 11:28-30.

God's Compassion for His Children. Hosea 11:1-11.

1. God's redemption of Ephraim (Hosea 11:1-4). Verses 1-4 condemned the Israelites for forgetting the Lord's covenantal faithfulness and sustenance. Hosea's message of great joy set the redemptive-historical context of God's compassion (Exodus 20:2), looking ahead to Jesus. Ephraim always went astray despite being called "God's son." Israel, called Ephraim in the book of Hosea, rejected Him despite His care for them in the wilderness and His covenant with them. As a result, they could not redeem themselves (Hosea 11:7).

Jesus, on the other hand, is the perfect fulfillment of Ephraim's calling. He

succeeded in all the ways Israel failed. Like Israel, Jesus was called out of Egypt, where Mary and Joseph had taken Him (Matthew 2:13-15). Matthew used a historical allusion to show how Jesus was God's perfect Son, unlike Ephraim. Through Jesus, God shows His compassion.

2. God's judgment of Ephraim (Hosea 11:5-7). Moses had warned that if the people rejected God, then God would reject them. But they did reject Him, putting their trust in Egypt and Assyria and bringing the covenant curses down on their heads (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). God would make the land like Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, on which He rained down fire because of their great sinfulness.

3. God's compassion on Ephraim (Hosea 11:8-11). Even though Hosea's words recalled the curses of Deuteronomy 29:23, that Israel would be like Admah and Zeboim, God would nonetheless have mercy and compassion on His wayward people. The Israelites deserved His wrath, yet instead of making a full end of them, He would continue to provide a way for salvation. He would bring judgment, but it would not yet be the final judgment (2 Peter 2:4-10). He would redeem and rescue His people again, which would prepare the way for salvation through His true Son, Jesus.

PRACTICAL POINTS

God loves us deeply. Take time to remember how He has shown His love in the past (Hosea 11:1).

Despite our unfaithfulness, God remains faithful. We can always turn to Him (vss. 2-4).

When believers persist in sin, He disciplines them; disaster is no reason to doubt God's love (vss. 5-7).

God does not discipline His people capriciously. If we are disciplined, let us return to Him (vss. 8-9)

God uses different means to rescue His wayward children (vs. 10).

God can reverse our situations, no matter how bleak they may be (vs. 11).

CONCLUSION

Despite God's faithfulness to His people, they rejected Him and chose to serve idols. Thus, God sent them into exile, promising that He would not utterly destroy them. He would show them the way of salvation.

We live in a time when God's salvation has been made clear through Jesus, His perfect Son. Like Israel, we were rebellious, yet God changed our hearts and drew us to Him. We should not neglect this compassion but should rejoice in God's mercy! The final judgment is coming; one day, God will pour out His wrath fully on all who reject Him. We should praise God for His salvation and tell others about Him!

Next week, we see how God has compassion to forgive our iniquities. **"God's Faithfulness to Israel" Micah 7:14-20.**

Union Gospel Press, LifeStone