

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

*Part 412 – Return Unto The Lord Through A Set Harvest (Hosea 6:1-11)*

### 1. Did they have hope that they could return to the Lord?

Yes: *“(1) Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. (2) After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. (3) Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth” (Hosea 6:1-3).*

- God had previously stated: *“I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early” (Hosea 5:15).*
- They could humble themselves and turn back to the Lord (**Deuteronomy 4:29-31**, **II Chronicles 7:14**, and **Nehemiah 1:8-9**).
- Yet, their pride has stood in their way (**Hosea 7:10**).
- Though He had punished them, they could count on His mercy (**Lamentations 3:40-41**).
- We should be careful when considering this two days and three days statement from the prophet. How about this simple point... This is a statement in the sense of the plea for the Lord to restore quickly (cf. **Psalms 38:21-22**, **Psalms 70:1-2**, **Psalms 71:10-12**, etc.).
- Knowing the Lord, as follows the pattern of the words of this prophet, is about relationship (**Hosea 2:20**).
- The connection of rain to their restoration... **Hosea 10:12; 14:1-6**

### 2. As Ephraim and Judah are addressed, what was compared to the early dew?

Their goodness: *“O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away” (Hosea 6:4).*

- Temporary, brief faithfulness (**Judges 2:18-19**, **Psalms 106:12-13**, and **Luke 8:13**).
- Faithfulness has to be continuous (**John 8:30-32**, **John 15:9-10**, **Acts 14:22**, **Hebrews 3:1-14**, **Titus 3:8**, and **Titus 3:14**).

### 3. What did the Lord do by His prophets and by the words of His mouth?

*“Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth” (Hosea 6:5).*

- They were cut/divided and slain by the words of the prophets (**Isaiah 58:1**, **Jeremiah 1:10**, **Jeremiah 23:29**, **Daniel 9:11-12**, **Zephaniah 2:5**, **Zechariah 1:6**, and **Hebrews 4:12**).
- The Lord’s judgment was as a light that goeth forth (**Psalms 9:16**).

4. What did God desire greater than sacrifice and burnt offerings?

Mercy and knowledge: *“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”* (**Hosea 6:6**).

- **I Samuel 15:13-23, Proverbs 21:3, Isaiah 1:10-20, Isaiah 58:6, Jeremiah 7:22-23, Micah 6:6-8, Matthew 12:1-14, Mark 2:23-28, and Luke 6:1-11**

5. How had they dealt with God?

Very treacherously against Him: *“But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me”* (**Hosea 6:7**).

- Mankind had a long history, back to the beginning, of transgression (**Romans 3:9-23; 5:14**).
- Also, of old, hiding those sins has been common practice (**Job 31:33**) instead of confessing and forsaking as they ought to have done (**Proverbs 28:13**).
- Regarding Israel, this had long been the pattern (**Deuteronomy 9:7; 9:24** and **Isaiah 48:8**).
- They had dealt treacherously against the Lord (**Jeremiah 3:8-20**).
- Again, the language of transgressing and a covenant carries the beginning theme of this book of a man married to a harlot (**Hosea 1:2**).

6. Was Gilead a faithful city?

No: *“Gilead is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood”* (**Hosea 6:8**).

- What we know happened throughout Israel was that they refused justice and were guilty of shedding innocent blood (**Isaiah 59:1-9**).

7. Were the priests known for doing the right things at this time?

No: *“And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness”* (**Hosea 6:9**).

- Even the priests were guilty of shedding blood (**Lamentations 4:13-14**).
- **Zephaniah 3:3-4**

8. When the Lord saw an horrible thing in Israel, how did He summarize their state?

As defiled: *“I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled”* (**Hosea 6:10**).

- Horrible (**Jeremiah 5:30-31** and **Jeremiah 23:14**).
- Defiled, in the sense of a wife (**Numbers 5:29**).

9. What did the Lord set for Judah?

An harvest at the time of restoration: *“Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people”* (**Hosea 6:11**; cf. **Psalms 69:35, Psalms 126:1-6, and Micah 4:6-13**).