

God Longs to Restore His People

Amidst all of his judgment in Hosea, God reveals the tender ache of a father's heart and gives the prophet powerful images of restoration for his people. Let's study these messages together and discuss how this ancient prophecy still calls us back to God's heart and to restoration.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you think of when you hear the word “return”? What has “return” meant to you?
- Is there a story or image of restoration that sticks with you? Why is it so meaningful for you?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God Longs to Restore His People](#)

READ [Hosea 11, 14](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reread Hosea 11 and reflect on host Scott Hoezee's visualization in segment 1: “What Hosea 11 is saying here is that when you do that, the minute you do turn around, God is there; and all God's love is there; and all of God's compassion is aroused.” What guilt are you carrying around in your life? What does it mean to you that God is there, ready, and waiting for you to turn around?
- Hosea attributes Israel's rebellion and sin to their lack of knowledge of God. How do we go about regaining that knowledge of God and getting to know him intimately?
- In segment 3, Scott brought to our attention how Paul, in [Romans 9](#), finds theological comfort for his anguish over Israel in Hosea ([Romans 9:25-26](#)). Then host Darrell Delaney noted how [1 Peter 2:4-10](#) echoes this assurance, especially in verses 9-10. In what ways do these connections between Hosea's prophecy and the apostles' teachings give you hope and comfort?
- Near the end of the episode, Scott mentioned how Hosea's call to return and come home to God makes him think of Psalm 90, which calls God “our dwelling place.” Read [Psalm 90](#) slowly in the context of our study of Hosea:
 - Which word, phrase, or scene speaks to you?
 - What do you know more deeply about God after hearing this?
 - How is this good news for you?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 2:13-15](#), [Deuteronomy 7:1-6](#), [Luke 15:11-32](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Proverbs 9:10-12](#), [Galatians 5:13-25](#), [Romans 9](#), [1 Peter 2:9-10](#), [Psalm 90](#), [Romans 6:1-14](#)

CONCLUSION

In closing the episode, Scott and Darrell identified three important ideas we can draw from our study of Hosea:

1. God's love is unrelenting
2. Repentance is relational
3. Restoration is real

Which of these ideas did the Holy Spirit move you to think more about? How might you continue to study these themes? Close by giving thanks to God for calling us back to him and restoring us whenever we're ready to express our simple words of repentance.

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Printed on June 3, 2026