

Remember, Repent, and Return

Through much of Hosea, the prophet speaks directly against Israel's spiritual betrayal. Chapter after chapter, God accuses Israel of idolatry, rampant injustice, and misplaced trust. We learn the consequences of their blatant rebellion. We also witness his longing for his people as he pleads for them to remember all he had done for them, to repent of their sins, and to return to him. Hosea's prophetic message for Israel is a reflection of God's heart. Together, we'll discuss what we can learn from Israel's story about our own hearts today.

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

- How do you define betrayal? Have you ever betrayed someone or been betrayed? What feelings did you experience? What were the consequences of that betrayal?
- How has God provided for you in unexpected ways, like he provided manna in the wilderness ([Exodus 16](#)) and water from a rock for the Israelites ([Exodus 17:1-7](#))?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Remember, Repent, and Return](#)

READ [Hosea 4-10, 12-13](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is God's acceptance of our worship connected to our just or unjust behavior in our daily lives?
- In segment 2, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney list some of the sins God accuses Israel of: leadership failure, stubborn pride, and counterfeit repentance. In what ways do you think Christians today, including yourself, continue to struggle with these sins?
- If our acts of worship are the same, whether our worship is genuine or not, how else do you think our lives reflect the transformation and renewal God desires?
- What is your experience with God's law? Do you view it as a rebuke or as a form of his grace?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Jeremiah 7:1-8](#), [Joel 2:12-13](#), [Amos 2:6-8](#)

CONCLUSION

Darrell summarized the many chapters of God's rebuke in Hosea by saying, "Spiritual unfaithfulness begins when we forget who God is and what he has done," and that "God wants more than our religions; he wants a renewal." Then, as they closed the episode, Scott and Darrell identified two conclusions we can draw from these chapters:

1. God holds us accountable out of love to bring us back to him.
2. Only sincere repentance leads to restoration.

Either individually in a journal or in conversation, reflect on Scott's concluding questions: "What about our own hearts? Are they like hard ground sometimes, too, that God's Word does just not penetrate? Do we go through the motions?" Close your time by talking to God about your thoughts and reflections in prayer.

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