

Foundation of the sermon

Purpose

Show that God redeems His own.

Principle Idea:

God is a God of redemption.

Type of Outline

Expository based on Hosea 2:14-23

I. Introduction

God, after a prophecy of gloom and doom, often provides a prophecy of future redemption. He has been raking Israel over the coals for most of chapter 1 and chapter 2 of Hosea. He has promised trouble, their destruction as a nation, captivity and woe for their spiritual immorality. Now He turns to their ultimate redemption.

The tone of the message turns in verse 14 of chapter 2. The use of the word "therefore" here shows this marked change in this verse.

II. Body

A. God Speaks to the Heart of Israel -- verses 14-17

As a parent, it is difficult to discipline a child. It is sometimes harder on the parent than the child to be consistent and to put your child in time-out, or on restriction and stick with it. You don't want to, the child tries your patience even further by begging for exceptions, telling you how horrible you are, etc.

Reconciliation once the punishment is done is something else. Usually you speak softly. There is a special connection during these periods, once the confrontation is ended.

That's what we have in verses 14-17. Of course, this is somewhat closer to a lover's quarrel. Israel has been chastised by God; now comes a time of reconciliation.

1. God Entices Israel -- verse 14

14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Verse 14 says that God enticed or allured Israel. This word speaks to God dealing in simplicity with Israel. He opened Himself up to them. God allures them with His approach to them.

According to this passage, God speaks "upon their heart". The KJV says that God speaks comfortably to Israel; the JPS says He speaks tenderly to her.

After confrontation, reconciliation takes place only by being open and by speaking to matters of the heart. We can learn much about personal relationships and the way to deal with situations where there has been separation in relationship. God, after the breakup is complete, seeks reconciliation. The issues of the past are past. To move beyond confrontation once the basic issues have been solved or dealt with, we need to speak kindly, to leave behind the bad blood of the past.

2. A Responsive Song -- verses 15, 20-22

15 And I will give her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; 22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

The book of the Song of Solomon is a responsive song. One of the players in the books speaks, and the other player responds back. The book, of course, is a responsive song spoken between two lovers.

In verse 15 and in verses 20-22, this type of responsive song is played out here in Hosea. Israel had been married to God; they had a deep interpersonal relationship. God renews that relationship. In verse 14, He had allured Israel with seductive actions. Now He and Israel exchange conversation in a similar manner as the two lovers in the Song of Solomon.

a) God Returns the Benefits of a Wife to Israel -- verse 15

In this passage, God returns the benefits of a wife to Israel. Where there had been no hope, only despair, God gives hope. Where there had been only poverty and lacking, God makes Israel prosperous.

Where she had only had reasons to sing dirges, she now has a reason to sing the song of a young lover.

b) Marriage Relationship Returns Harmony between all Things --verses 20-22

The restored relationship between God and Israel brings harmony. It brings all things back into order. The earth produces. All parties communicate in loving response to the renewed relationship.

3. God Removes the Name of the Baals -- verses 16-17

One of the things that keeps us from "true worship" is the allure of "false worship." There are so many things that are out there. We get confused into thinking that whatever we are doing is the right thing. We deceive ourselves thinking that it "feels good" or it "feels right" or "this is what's right for me" that we fail to see the real truth, the real path, and the right way.

16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. 17 For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

The objects of false religion will be removed out of the way: taken away, put out of sight and out of mind. The right way will be obvious. There will be no doubt, no question; the right way will be the only way.

B. God Makes a New Covenant with Everything -- verses 18 - 23

These verses speak of a wonderful future. It will be a time when God reconciles all things, people, and all Israel to Himself. He cuts a covenant with them. He makes an everlasting agreement with His whole creation.

18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

1. God Makes a Covenant with Animal Kingdom -- verse 18

God makes a covenant with the creatures of the earth in verse 18. The Hebrew is very expressive in the term "covenant." The Hebrew itself says that "God cut a covenant". It speaks of the dividing of halves of a sacrifice. In Genesis 15 where God makes a covenant with Abraham, Abraham is pictured as dividing all the sacrificed animal carcasses into two pieces (save the birds) and placing them on opposite sides of a path. During that covenant, God passes through the midst of the divided pieces.

The sacrifice is sealed in blood. God, by that, acts as the surety of the covenant. It will come to pass; He guarantees it.

Sin demands sacrifice. The penalty of sin is death. The earth, because of man, has become defiled with the sin of man. The earth, as it is today, is a polluted, and distorted picture of its reality because of sin. Not only man, but all creation has suffered, because of the pollution of man's sin.

In Romans 8:22 shows a description of this distressed condition of creation when it says: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

Jesus, through His death, became the perfect sacrifice for the New Covenant. He also was the perfect sacrifice for sin. The blood of Jesus provides a redemption and cleansing for the sins of the whole "world" according to I John 2:2. The earth and its creatures that suffer now because of the sins of all mankind is given permanent relief because of Christ and His work.

He becomes the sure guarantee that God will keep His covenant with all of creation.

2. Marriage Covenant with Israel -- verses 19-22

These passages were previously discussed in relationship to the "responsive" nature of the discussions between God and His marriage partner Israel.

The key to these passages seems to be the concept of marriage. In essence, in that part of the world, the marriage was a covenant. It was an agreement between two parties. Again, God is reconciling all things to Himself. This includes Israel whom He loves.

These passages use the term "betroth" 3 times in verses 19 and 20. Marriage, at that time, passed through several stages. According to the NIVDOE lexicon: "The betrothal appears to have been the final step in concluding a marriage following which the only thing remaining was the consummation" (NIVDOE 1:526).

God, through the New Covenant, completes His marriage to the children of Jacob. Quoting Jeremiah in part of the passage, the writer of the book of Hebrews in chapter 8:8-13 says:

"8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they

shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”

The sins of Israel are removed, cleansed, and taken away by the blood of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice. The land is cleansed from the sins done it, by the worship of “false gods” and the atrocities of men. God restores the productivity of the land and its produce. It’s part of His agreement with Israel.

3. God Returns Mercy to His People -- verse (23)

This new covenant and new relationship does one more important thing. Israel, who in this sinful period had rejected God, served other gods, been rejected as God’s people, and had refused the mercy of God, have their place with God restored. They, who in chapter 1 are called “not-my people” and “not received mercy” are now called “my people” and “obtained mercy.”

In Romans 9:24-26, God, through Paul, uses this prophecy and these names in a broader sense than just to unfaithful Israel, but uses it to describe the blessing and covenant that God will make with the Gentiles who follow Him. In this passage, it states:

“24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? 25 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.”

In the previous verses, I had said that God was reconciling all of creation to Himself. He redeems all the animal kingdom. He redeems the earth. He redeems Israel, but that is not all. Here, according to Paul, God is referring to redeeming not just Israel, but all of mankind to Himself. He is calling Himself a people who have obtained mercy and have become His people.

III. Application

1. No matter what you have done, and no matter where you have strayed from God -- God is faithful and true to His promises.
2. No matter how horrible your sins make you feel, God is willing to speak "kindly" to you, but that means you must turn away from your past.
3. No matter how you have suffered in this life, if you are His, you will be redeemed, cleansed, and put in right relationship with Him.
4. God has made a covenant between His people and Himself that is eternal.
5. There is coming a time of reconciliation for you, and the future is bright, and glorious for God's people.
6. It is all because of the blood of the sacrifice of Jesus, for your sins and the sins of the world.
7. It is all because of the blood of Jesus that the covenant is "sure" and eternal.

IV. Conclusion

God is faithful. God is true. God is trustworthy. Even in the midst of the sin and oncoming punishment for sin, God gives hope. He sees the end from the beginning. He has promised a bright future for all who are His.

No matter what you have done in the past, no matter how you have rejected, and disrespected Him in the past, turn now. Seek His will; become faithful in your service to Him, and God will give His blessings throughout all eternity.

Title: God Promises Great Things Eternally.