

-HOSEA-

THE OUTRAGEOUS, HEARTBREAKING, AND COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED LOVE OF GOD.

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YES, NO & MAYBE

1. I have grave concerns for the way people parent their kids these days.

2. Most parents are clueless.

3. God's parenting style is closer to the Millennial's style than to their grandparents' generational style.

4. When you turn from God, even though you call Him your Most High God, He will not lift you up.

5. When God "roars," people can relax.

DIVE DEEPER

∞ Have you ever tried to give advice to a parent who had poorly-behaved children? How did that go?

°**READ Hosea 11:1-11 (NIV)**

1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. 3 It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.
4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. 5 "Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? 6 A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. 7 My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. 8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. 9 I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. 10 They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. 11 They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes," declares the Lord.

~In verses 1 & 2, Hosea says that from God's perspective, the more he called His children, the more they went away from Him. Have you ever seen earthly parents go through this struggle with their kids? What was that experience like?

~In verse 3, God sounds personally wounded. He says, "It was I..." The "children" are giving credit for the gifts and blessings to someone else. The literal imagery here is of a father guiding his child by the arm, and the child pulling away.

~Verse 4 completely changes the picture of God for the people:

° God presents Himself as performing the duties of a Mom.

» human cords/ties of love -

» to the cheek -

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» bent down to feed them -

~Why do you think God would present Himself with the qualities of a mother, and what does this say about His character?

~In verses 5 & 6, God warns his children that their path is leading them back into captivity and loss, but then in verse 7 we have two confusing sentences that seem to contradict verse 8 right after it: "**My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.**"

° **determined to turn from me** - [literally, hung up on hooks (social disgrace), to backslide from God.]

° **exalt them** - There is no "me" or "I" in the manuscripts. The first "me" is the Hebrew word **hu**, which means "he, she or it." Literally it means that the children were calling Baal the most high god, but he does not have the power to exalt them.

~ Verses 8 & 9 are still revolutionary in our understanding of God's character today.

° What do you think God is trying to express here that the people did not understand?

» Admah & Zeboyim -

~When God roars...

° How does this enhance your view of God's character?

NOTES

MY PRAYER

1. Am I relying on other sources to guide me other than God?

2. How am I pulling away from God's guiding hand?

3. How do I see God's character better now?



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