

- He values and preserves true knowledge (10:14).
- He considers carefully what to say and who to associate with (12:18).
- **The wise** wants to understand and know the significance of Hosea (Hos 14:9).
- He accepts that the LORD's ways are right and aims to walk in them (14:9).
- He listens to the LORD's words and seeks to obey them (1:2).
- He cares whether or not he is forsaking the LORD and will admit it if he is (1:2).
- He is moved by the LORD's forecasting of both retribution and restoration.
- He actively puts away (spiritual) whoring and pleads with others to do the same.
- He acknowledges (knows and remembers) the LORD as the ultimate source of his provision that is graciously given.
- He genuinely repents and returns to the LORD for the LORD's sake.
- He considers how he might use his provisions for godly pursuits.
- He understands and agrees that practices can be wrong and rightly punishable by the LORD.
- He seeks to love the LORD exclusively and strives to keep in check the love of false or temporary things.
- He understand that he needs the LORD's help to return to him and seek him.

### What is the fool like, in both Hosea and in Proverbs?

- **The fool** despises wisdom and instruction and hates knowledge (Prov 1:7).
- He doesn't give thought to what he says and babbles on (Prov 10:8).
- He is careless with wrongdoing and even considers it a joke (Prov 10:23).
- He thinks that his ways are right and he doesn't seek advice (Prov 12:15).
- He is ruled by his emotions and boasts in his folly (Prov 12:16; cf. 12:23; 13:16).
- **The fool** rejects either that the LORD's ways are right or are right for him.
- He doesn't care about the significance of Hosea or being a transgressor.
- He doesn't hear or heed the word of the LORD.
- He doesn't care or admit that he is forsaking the LORD.
- He doesn't take seriously the LORD's forecasted retribution or restoration.
- He doesn't put away (spiritual) whoring or plead with others to do the same.
- He doesn't acknowledge the LORD as the source of his provisions, but acts as if they are his by his own doing.
- He doesn't genuinely repent and either recoils at it or feigns it for a time.
- He doesn't use his provisions that came from the LORD for godly pursuits.
- He doesn't consider or care that practices can be wrong and punishable.
- He doesn't love the LORD exclusively and loves false and temporary things more.
- He doesn't have the capacity to return to LORD or seek him, and either doesn't even try or tries all on his own.

### What could it look like to walk in his ways, particularly related to Hosea?

I endeavor to live my life...

- ...inclined continually and consistently, heart and body, to hear the word of God, believing that there will be a definite reaping for what I sow;
- ...seeking to remain faithful to God, actively avoiding forsaking him and encouraging others to do the same;
- ...not driven by my worldly desires or what others in the world are doing, being aware of their influences on me and how easy it is to cultivate both;
- ...diligent to do what God tells me to do and strategizing on not doing what he tells me to avoid, recognizing that my practices can influence my loves and vice versa;
- ...agreeing with God about all reality and responding in kind, not being stubborn or proud to admit my sin and repent to him for forgiveness.

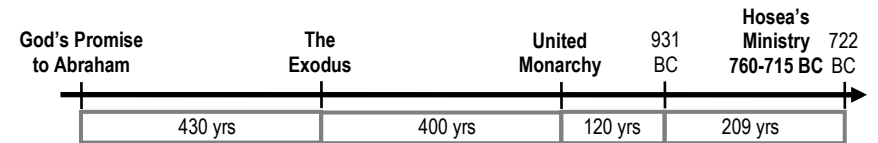
Sunday, May 17, 2026  
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God**  
No. 22 | Conclusion

## Hosea 14:9

### Review

The Book of Hosea: (1) It is the first book of the minor prophets in the Old Testament (starting on page 751 in the ESV Pew Bible); (2) It recounts the "word of the LORD" to Hosea, a man who served as a prophet in deed and in word; (3) His prophetic ministry was most immediately to the northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria), then to the southern kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem); (4) He began his prophetic ministry likely shortly before Jeroboam II died (753 BC) and concluded shortly after Hezekiah began to reign (729 BC).



The Book of Hosea is about the *faithlessness* of God's people and his *faithfulness* to them, illustrated most poignantly through marital (in)fideliy.

### Conclusion

14:9

#### How does Hosea conclude?

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hosea 14:9** Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

- This is a very unique way of concluding a book of the Old Testament (especially, a minor prophet book).
- This sounds much more like it should be found in the book of Proverbs (or, even on the lips of Jesus Christ, e.g. "he that has an ear to hear, let him hear").
- This does, though, clearly communicates that the book of Hosea is applicational (and with that, indicates that it also is intended to be read by many others):
  - People in *Israel*, the northern kingdom, during Hosea's days up to 722 BC
  - People in *Judah*, the southern kingdom, following Hosea, up to 586 BC
  - People in *exile* and *post-exile*, up to Malachi's days, 420s BC
  - People following Malachi, up to the full gathering of Judah and Israel:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hosea 1:11** And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hosea 3:5** Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

- This, however, reveals that a degree of diligence will be required in order to benefit from its significance.

What is this verse saying?

“Whoever is **wise**...whoever is **discerning** (*bin*)...”

Being wise...

accurate knowledge applied appropriately to the circumstance

Becoming wise...

“...let him **understand** (*bin*)...let him **know**...”

“(To) **understand** goes beyond collection of information to the ability to assess the practical significance of what is observed.” (Mackay, p. 374)

“...**these things**...**them**...”

“The point is not that wise people automatically will understand Hosea, but that *one must be wise in order to understand it*...In short, this verse plainly states what is obvious to any reader of the Hebrew text of Hosea: it is hard to comprehend.” (Garrett, p. 281)

“...for the **ways** of the LORD are right (straight).”

Ways... how he operates (does) or what he lays out (says)

Right... never wrong, never twisted

- The LORD's ways are seen throughout the book of Hosea (these things).
- The LORD's ways, seen throughout the book of Hosea, are right.
- Everyone who comes in contact with his ways, seen throughout the book of Hosea, will either walk in them or stumble in them.
- Everyone who comes in contact with these things, throughout the book of Hosea, is encouraged to understand his ways in them, which will demonstrate whether or not they are wise and cultivate further wisdom.

“The task of comprehending Hosea is bound up with the task of knowing God....The text invites the reader to a way of life; it is a path that leads to understanding and to God. In the final analysis, therefore, the key to interpretation is not intelligence but submission....Hosea's final message to us is this: 'How do you read the words of this book? Do they enlighten or confound? Are they life or death? Your response describes not so much the state of my book as the state of your soul.'” (Garrett, p. 282)

“...and the **upright** walk in them, but **transgressors** stumble in them.”

“The matter at hand in v. 9 is not just the wisdom associated with *discerning* something of YHWH's modes of action and instruction, but also the wisdom of a patterned, disciplined response to the ways revealed. Hence the final antithetical parallelism of the verse between the righteous and transgressors.” (Dearman, p. 345)

What is this verse doing?

Summarizing the book of Hosea...

The LORD (YHWH) uses the marriage relationship to illustrate the nature and condition of his relationship to Israel and their relationship to him:

- God had freely, graciously made Israel his own people.
- He did so by making himself known to them, saving them out of Egypt, establishing a covenant relationship with them, and providing for them.
- He demonstrated faithfulness to them over the course of their relationship, and expected their faithfulness to him, detailing what it meant to follow him along with what it would mean if they didn't follow him.
- The people of Israel, individually and corporately, routinely demonstrated *unfaithfulness* to God, turning from following him to following others (false gods, foreign nations) along with their ungodly practices.
- God, through Hosea, clearly warns them that they are subject to unavoidable punishment, which will endure, but that they should return to him, which if (when) they eventually do will result in full restoration.

Summarizing how we've already approached its significance...

- (1) God as faithful husband of Israel, and Israel as unfaithful wife to God; (2) marriage as an illustration of exclusive faithful love; (3) corporate identity vs individual identity; (4) Israel vs. the church
- (1) Do I have a similar covenant relationship with the Lord? (2) Do I have a similar tendency to live unfaithfully to the Lord? (3) Do I have a similar need for being corrected by the Lord? (4) Do I have a similar admonition for repentance unto the Lord?

Summarizing using this verse to demonstrate its significance...

**What are the ways of the LORD**, particularly in Hosea?

- **The Lord** speaks to his people, over and over, and means to be heard (1:2).
- He expects and demands *not* forsaking him (1:2).
- He defines *what* (spiritual) whoredom is and *that* it is wrong (1:2).
- He punishes even his own for sin against him (and others; 1:4-9).
- He initiates promises of eventual restoration that doesn't compromise his punishment of sin (1:10-2:1).
- He has the right to demand and enforce exclusivity (2:2; 3:3-4).
- He has the right to both show mercy and withhold mercy (2:4).
- He has the right to give provisions and take provisions away (2:3, 6-7, 9)
- He has the right to be most remembered and never forgotten (2:8, 13).
- He has the right to claim ownership and protect what is his (2:8).
- He is a giver and an allurer (2:14-15).
- He is a covenanter and an enabler (2:16-20).
- He is an answerer and a sustainer (2:21-23).
- He is a resilient and irresistible lover (3:1-5; cf. 11:1-11).
- He is a righteous and hard controversialist (4:1-13:16).
- He is a free and bountiful forgiver (14:1-8).

**What is the wise like**, in both Hosea and in Proverbs?

- **The wise** hears continually and increases in learning (Prov 1:5).
- He fears the LORD and is not wise in his own eyes (3:7; cf. 12:15).
- He receives reproof and rightly loves those who bring it (9:8).