

This is love

Hosea 11:1-11 (English Standard Version)

- 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
- 2 The more they were called,
the more they went away;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and burning offerings to idols.
- 3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up by their arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
- 4 I led them with cords of kindness,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.

- 5 They shall not return to the land of Egypt,
but Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
- 6 The sword shall rage against their cities,
consume the bars of their gates,
and devour them because of their own counsels.
- 7 My people are bent on turning away from me,
and though they call out to the Most High,
he shall not raise them up at all.

- 8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
- 9 I will not execute my burning anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.

- 10 They shall go after the LORD;
he will roar like a lion;
when he roars,
his children shall come trembling from the west;
- 11 they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria,
and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.

Intro: Chapter 10 and love's backdrop

God's love revealed and betrayed (vv.1-4)

God's justice impending (vv.5-7)

God's compassion aroused (vv.8-9)

God's commitment pronounced (vv.10-11)

Hosea and Jesus

- God's Son called

- God's Son Given

Hosea and us

- They shall go after the Lord