

## **Hosea: The Husband and the Harlot**

### **The Wise Choice**

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**The final plea: return** – “Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall!” (**Hosea 14:1**)

- **Confession from your heart** – “Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him: ‘Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.’” (**v. 2**)
- **Re-direction in your life** – “Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount war-horses. We will never again say ‘Our gods’ to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion.” (**v. 3**)

**The final promise: restoration** – “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.” (**v. 4**)

- **Inner spiritual transformation** – “I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily.” (**v. 5a**)
- **Deeper spiritual strength** – “Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.” (**vv. 5b-6**)
- **Broader spiritual influence** – “Men will dwell again in his shade. He will flourish like the grain. He will blossom like a vine, and his fame will be like the wine from Lebanon.” (**v. 7**)

“O Ephraim, what more have I (you) to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a green pine tree; your fruitfulness comes from me.” (**v. 8**)

**The final challenge: choice** – “Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.” (**v. 9**)

*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9)*

*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. (Matt. 3:8)*