

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

004 - Monday - January 20, 2025

GUT-WRENCING LOVE

The incalculable depths of God's compassionate love for humanity are manifested in Hosea. God had commanded the prophet Hosea, "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the Lord" (*Hos. 1:2, NKJV*). Hosea 1 later depicts God's relationship with His people, but with the metaphor of a loving father for his child.

Hosea 11:1-9 (NKJV) "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son. (2) As they called them, So they went from them; They sacrificed to the Baals, And burned incense to carved images. (3) "I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them. (4) I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped *and* fed them. (5) "He shall not return to the land of Egypt; But the Assyrian shall be his king, Because they refused to repent. (6) And the sword shall slash in his cities, Devour his districts, And consume *them*, Because of their own counsels. (7) My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt *Him*. (8) "How can I give you up, Ephraim? *How* can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? *How* can I set you like Zeboim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred. (9) I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I *am* God, and not man, The Holy One in your midst; And I will not come with terror."

How does the imagery in these verses bring to life the way God loves and cares for His people?

Hosea's Parent to child language is revealed in:

- 1. God's love is a "Healing love"** - Deuteronomy 32:39 (NKJV) "Now see that I, *even* I, *am* He, and *there is* no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand."

Genuine emotional and mental healing is impossible when God is rejected:

Matthew 13:15 (NKJV) "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

There is a difference between Matt 1:21, John 1:29, and Isaiah 61

Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV) ““The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;”

2. **God’s Love is a Sympathizing love** - Hosea 11:8 (NKJV) “How can I give you up, Ephraim? *How* can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? *How* can I set you like Zeboiim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.”

Sympathizing love included feelings of pity and [sorrow](#) for someone else's [misfortune](#). **Sympathy** feels sincere concern for someone who is experiencing something difficult or painful. **Empathy** shares in the person’s emotional experience.

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 2:18 (NKJV) “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

3. **God’s love is a Redeeming God** – “Isaiah 63:16 (NKJV) “Doubtless You *are* our Father, Though Abraham was ignorant of us, And Israel does not acknowledge us. You, O LORD, *are* our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting *is* Your name.”

Redemption **compensates** for someone’s or something’s faults.
Redemption **atones** or make amends for (sin, error, or evil).
Redemption **identifies** with the one being redeemed.

Isaiah 43:1 (NKJV) “But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You *are* Mine.”

4. **God’s Love has no expiration:** Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV) “The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) “*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

5. **God’s love is a Rebuking love:** Proverbs 9:8 (NKJV) “Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love you.”

Rebuke: express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behavior or actions. Love that does not include rebuke is a non-committed love.

Revelation 3:19 (NKJV) “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Proverbs 3:12 (NKJV) “For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.”

God Love is a non-harming love: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NKJV) “(4) Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; (5) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; (6) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”