

**The Pronouncement of Impending Judgment and the  
Pre-eminence of Divine Love  
(Hosea 6:11-11:11 August 15, 2021)**



Have you ever been around a threatening repeating parent?

Jimmy – don't touch the photographs or I'm warning you – no Nutella for dessert.

Jimmy touches them.

Jimmy – don't hit your sister or I'm telling you – you will have to go to your room.

Jimmy whacks her.

Jimmy – this is absolutely your last warning – sit still **or else!**

And everyone watching this pantomime – including Jimmy – knows Dad won't follow through. He is all bark no bite. He will be having Nutella tonight and he will not spend a nano-second confined to his room.

Jimmy has long since learned he can do whatever he wants and when push comes to shove – Dad won't act.

Jimmy is **never** going to sit still.

In many ways, this is how Israel viewed the Lord – a threatening repeating parent who won't follow through.

All promises of judgment – but when push comes to shove – God hasn't acted and won't act.

One of the key truths of Hosea is that God is most certainly **not** a threatening repeating parent. He is a holy God who **will** judge sin.

What we are going to see this morning is that:



**God's holiness demands judgment.**

**God's holiness demands judgment.**

This truth seems so black and white – but as we have seen – there is hope. Finding its way through this book is a different note – a note of grace.



## God's Grace Is Greater Than My Sin

**God's grace is greater than my sin.**

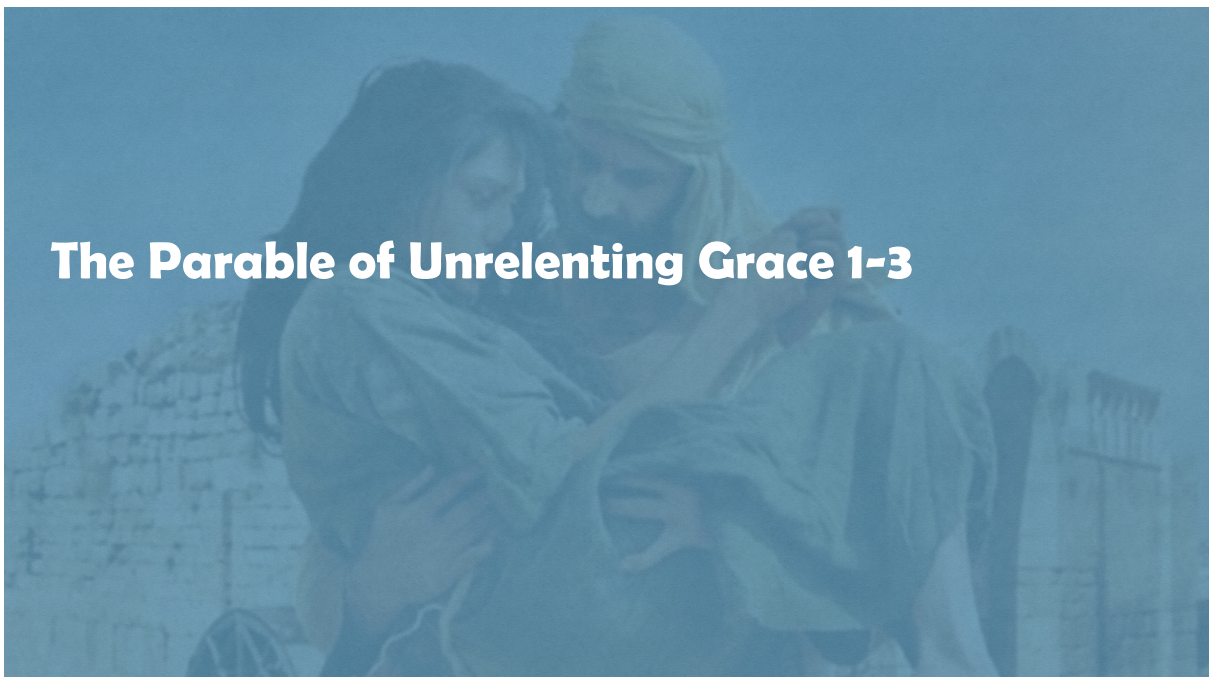
**God's grace is – absolutely – greater than my sin.**

However, what Hosea makes clear is that grace does not mean – no consequences.

Sin absolutely has consequences.

We have been looking at how this message unpacks.

In chapters 1-3 of Hosea we saw:



### The Parable of Unrelenting Grace 1-3

## **The Parable of Unrelenting Grace**

Hosea was appointed a prophet with the most astonishing call to ministry.

He was commanded to:

Go and marry a whore and have children of whoredom.

God was using Hosea's marriage to picture how he would save His people.

But Israel objected to being characterised as Gomers – unfaithful adulterers.

So, God makes His case by painting a picture of a courtroom.



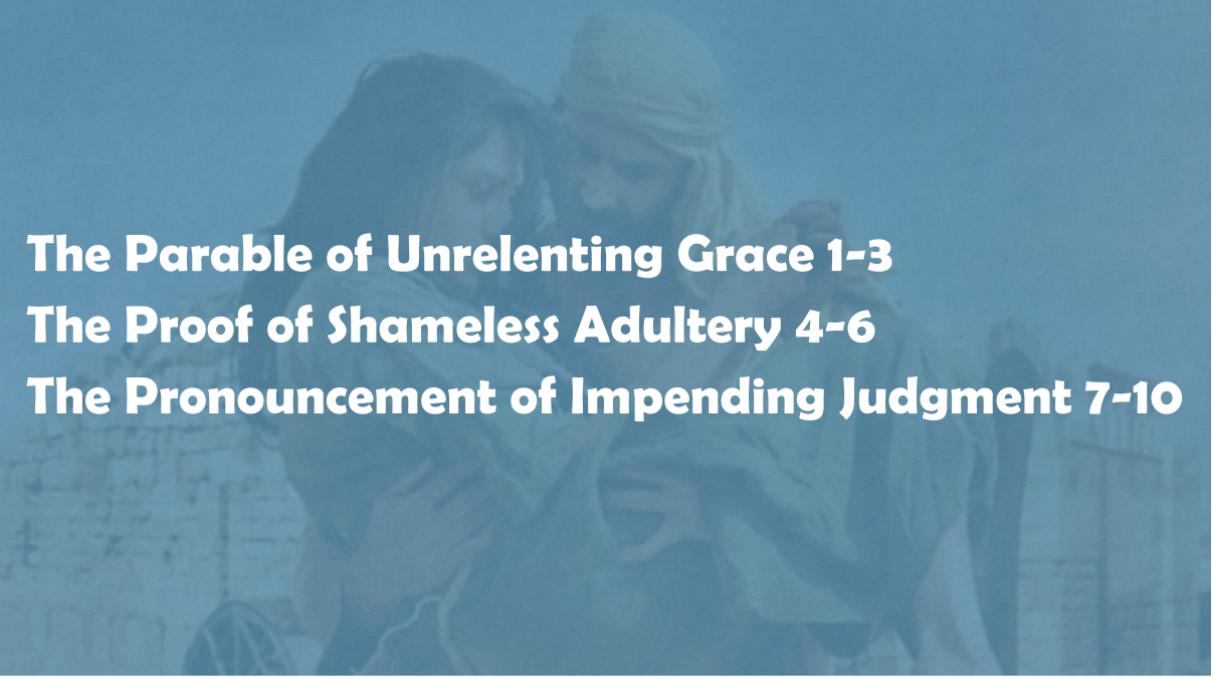
## **The Parable of Unrelenting Grace 1-3** **The Proof of Shameless Adultery 4-6**

*First*, God puts on His barrister hat. We looked at this in chapters 4-6 last week where God provided:

### **The Proof of Shameless Adultery**

God lays out the evidence that Israel is indeed a shameless adulterer. A nation of Gomers who need grace.

This week:



**The Parable of Unrelenting Grace 1-3**  
**The Proof of Shameless Adultery 4-6**  
**The Pronouncement of Impending Judgment 7-10**

In chapters 7-10 – God switches hats. He takes the role of judge and He outlines the sentence Israel so richly deserves.



**The Parable of Unrelenting Grace 1-3**  
**The Proof of Shameless Adultery 4-6**  
**The Pronouncement of Impending Judgment 7-10**

This morning we are going to look at:

**The pronouncement of impending judgment.**

Israel's sin **does** have consequences and God will act.

We begin with:



**Justice's day:**

**I will have a day of reckoning 6:11-7:2**

### **Justice's day**

Where God says:

**I will have a day of reckoning 6:11-7:2**

God is holy which means sin cannot just be excused. Justice must have a day.

The introduction to this section actually begins with the last verse of chapter 6.

I sometimes wonder if those doing the original chapter divisions were tired or distracted or how they came up with them.

Anyway – look at Hosea 6:11-7:2:

When I return my people from captivity, when I heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim and the crimes of Samaria will be exposed. For they practice fraud; a thief breaks in; a raiding party pillages outside. But they never consider that I remember all their evil. Now their actions are all around them; they are right in front of my face.

The Bible speaks of a coming time – the end of days.

This will be a time of *blessing* – return from captivity – healing – but also of *judgment*.

On that day – the truth of hearts will be revealed. Crimes exposed.

Israel seemed to think – by that time God will have forgotten. When the world is done – God will simply overlook their sins.

They are like the kid when mum says – that's it – when your Dad gets home he will deal with you.

And the kid is pretty sure – nah – she will have calmed down – she will be busy with dinner – she will forget – nothing will happen.

God says – I don't forget.

While you were practising fraud and theft and pillaging – you thought there would be no consequences.

I assure you – I have not forgotten one sin. It is as if they are occurring right in front of My face.

God does not have spiritual dementia.

There is nothing hidden or done in plain sight that is forgotten by God.

Revelation 21 speaks of the day the books are opened and all our works are before God.

And then comes judgment.

Our world is filled with crimes and offences.

And many of those carrying out the crimes are only concerned with getting caught by man. They think that if they escape human punishment – it's all good.

The adulterer who is never found out.

The woman who steal from her employer and gets away with it.

As well, those who sin against the law of God and guess what – there seems to be no immediate judgment – no lightning bolt from above.

God says – no – I **will** have my day. There is no sin that is hidden, forgotten or overlooked.

When you read through the next few chapters – it is as if the penny finally dawns of Israel – God is serious about this.

So, it seems from the way these chapters are phrased God knows Israel's defence – their plea – would be.

They would say – OK yes we did make some mistakes – but we are your people after all – and we did do some good things as well.

Our good things should cancel out our sin.

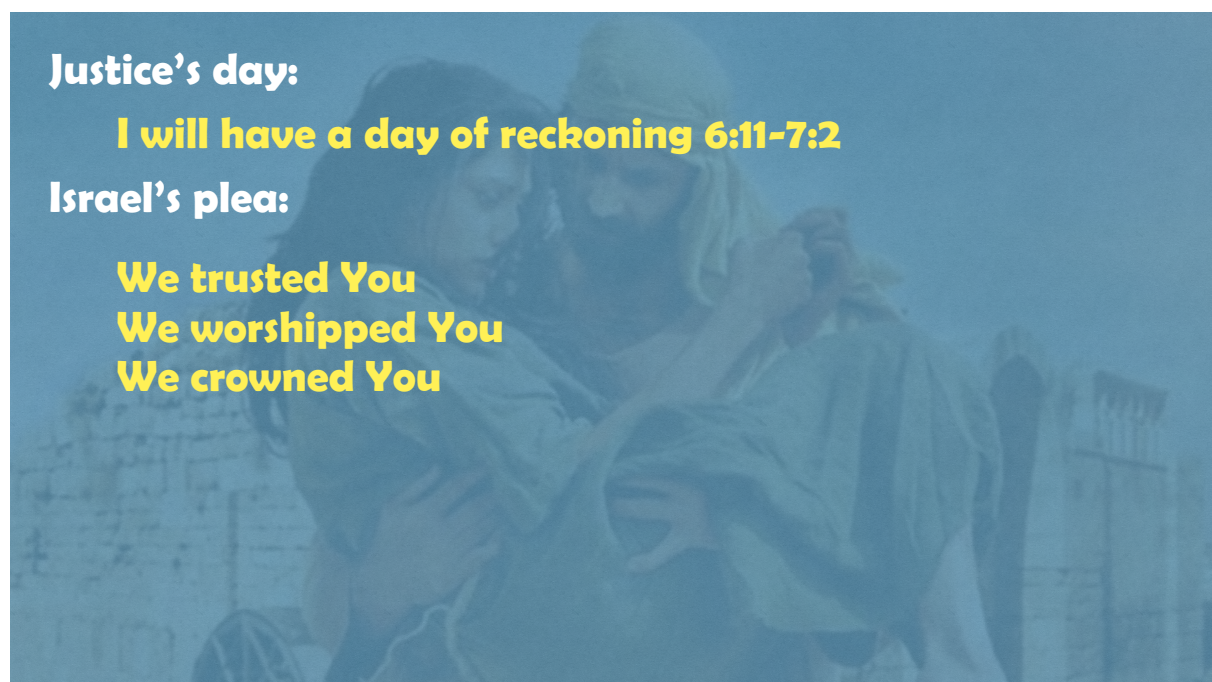
This is the kid crying out – OK OK you caught me I did hit my sister – but let's all take a deep breath and remember that time last year when I picked up some toys in my room at least once – and possibly twice – remember that? That has to count for something – so you shouldn't punish me.

But God has two responses.

First – He is holy. He **has** to judge sin. God doesn't grade on a curve. Good deeds don't cancel out evil. Any act of evil stands alone and has to be judged.

Second – Oh those good deeds you were relying on – actually they are not so good. They were in fact evil.

So, what would **Israel's plea** be?



**We trusted You**  
**We worshipped You**  
**We crowned You**

God these are the things on the positive side of our ledger.

But, good deeds don't cancel evil ones – and these are in fact not such good deeds.

What we are going to see is so similar to Matthew 7:21–23 where Jesus said:

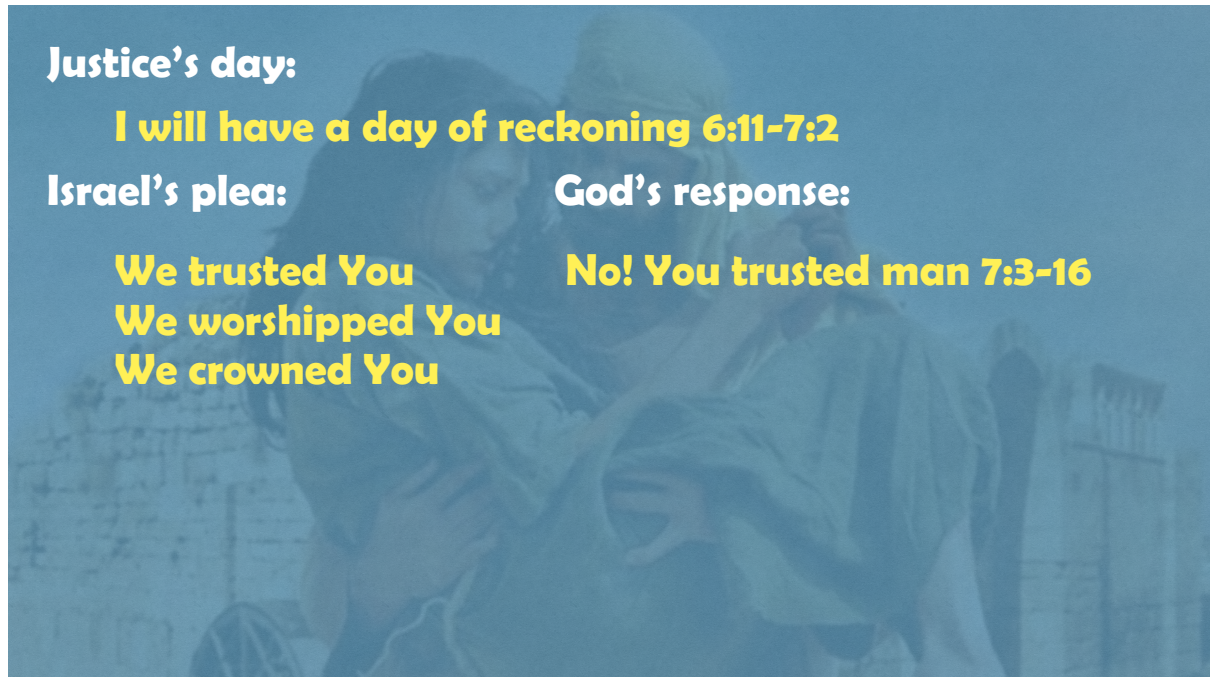
Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. **Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**'

This is Israel. What about these things.

**We trusted You  
We worshipped You  
We crowned You**

God will say – **Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**

**Israel's first plea:**



**Justice's day:**  
**I will have a day of reckoning 6:11-7:2**

<b>Israel's plea:</b>	<b>God's response:</b>
<b>We trusted You We worshipped You We crowned You</b>	<b>No! You trusted man 7:3-16</b>

**We trusted You.**

God responds:

**No! You trusted man 7:3-16**

You really trusted man – yourself, the nations, human ability.

Look at verses 3-7 of chapter 7, Hosea gives an illustration. But it is a complex double illustration.

The first part of the illustration involves an inattentive baker. He has one job – make bread.

But he falls asleep and stops kneading the dough and tending the fire.

When he wakes in the morning the fire is out of control and the bread is destroyed.

The other illustration involves a king and princes.

The king had one job – to point the people of Israel to God. To lead the people to trust God.

But this king is getting drunk and committing adultery with princes.

It seems the princes are the leaders of other nations.

This king thinks these princes are mates that he can trust in a crisis. He doesn't realise these princes are treacherous – waiting for him to get drunk on wine and sex and then to destroy him.

The anger of these princes smoulders until the opportune moment and they pounce and consume the king – like the overheated oven consumed the bread.

The end of verse 7 tells us what all this means:

All their kings fall; not one of them calls on me.

The baker and the king – the ones who had one job – they refer to the kings of the northern nation – Israel.

Kings were meant to tell the people to trust God in good times and tough times.

On the day of the king – on the day the kings needed to stand up – probably on a day when the nation was in danger – each of the kings did not do what kings should do – cry out to God for help. Instead, they sought help from the treacherous princes – the kings of the nations.

This is not just one king of Israel – this is all of them.

Not one king of Israel called out to God for help. Every one of them trusted idols, gods, nations – and every last one of them fell.

The picture is this. The kings of Israel were meant to be a guide to the people. Instead, they are drunk on immorality and adultery with the nations and gods of the nations.

They are having a great time with the nations – trouble looms – and their first thought is – my mates – the kings – will help.

And they were unaware that they were being deceived – that the ones they thought were allies were just waiting to pounce.

I tell you – the world is **not** your friend.

The world will consume you.

God is your only true friend.

There are too many men and women who call themselves Christians – but when the books are opened and their deeds exposed – it will show that when trials came – when temptations came – instead of trusting God – they turned to the world.

They turned to **the wisdom of man and the gods of man – they turned to sin – they turned to the answers of the world.**

When you are in pain – turning to sin is like feeding the fire – it will not help you.

Too many Christians look for assistance in alcohol, sex, food, money.

Too many Christians trust Google, Oprah, psychologists, politicians over God and His word.

When you are in danger – trusting the world is a false hope.

There is only one true friend. God.

God is not some backstop to turn to when all else fails – and as we will see – even then Israel did not turn to God.

Parents, elders, leaders – we have one job – tell those around us to trust God and lead by example.

Look at verses 8-9.

Ephraim – the northern kingdom allied with the nations. When the heat came – they were like unturned bread – unprepared and vulnerable – the nations they trusted pounced and they were consumed.

The foreigners – the nations she trusted consumed her – stole her strength – made her prematurely old – her hair was streaked with grey – and she actually had no clue she was being consumed until it was too late.

My friends, the world, they would not betray me.

In verses 10-16 we find these pictures. They are like a dove flitting to every nation – but never to God.

They are so arrogant that while they are being consumed – even when they are caught in a net – they still refuse to turn to the Lord.

Verse 14 – they wail on beds – probably wailing in the throes of cultic sex with temple prostitutes – they cut themselves as part of the cultic worship – expecting Baal to help them with grain and new wine – and the fact it does not come still does not drive them to the Lord.

Here is the picture – the nation is turning everywhere – everywhere that is but to the Lord.

This is often us – I have an issue – I Google it – I try and drown my sorrows – I indulge my lusts – I work harder.

And often even when every other avenue has failed – we don't throw ourselves before God.

God was the One who strengthened Israel – yet they turn from Him.

So, God will judge. The kings will be like a faulty bow – unable to protect the nation.

They will fall by the sword.

And nations like Egypt will ridicule them for their foolishness – they didn't even trust their God.

The metaphors here are so powerful.

Voices promising help, satisfaction and pleasure.

The voices of the world whispering sex, wealth and protection – but are in fact deceivers.

And the children of God are like senseless doves flitting from one worldly promise to the next.

This doesn't work – try that – OK try that.

Try everything but trusting God.

And the world smiles – gotcha.

The promises of the world are empty and deceitful.

God is to be our **first** port of call. His answer is not always to remove the trial – sometimes it is to give us sufficient grace to withstand the trial.

God will not fail us.

Israel would have had another **plea**:



**Justice's day:**

**I will have a day of reckoning 6:11-7:2**

**Israel's plea:**

**God's response:**

**We trusted You**

**No! You trusted man 7:3-16**

**We worshipped You**

**No! You worshipped man 8:1-9:9**

**We crowned You**

**We worshipped You.**

God responds:

**No! You worshipped man 8:1-9:9**

Just over a week ago I was watching the women's high jump final and cheering for Australia's Nicola McDermott.

She was awesome and just missed the gold and took home the silver.

Then I listened to her interview. She was right up front about being a Christian and here is a bit of what she said:

As a teenager, I was always an outcast, and I got welcomed into a faith community that loved me. I remember encountering God's love and it changed the way that I thought of myself as a misfit.

... I decided to pursue God over sport and whatever comes with sport is a bonus. But I am already complete and perfect in love regardless of it.

It was beautiful. Most of the comments I saw were positive. But not a surprise that a few trolls were critical of her using her sporting achievement to promote her faith.

Basically, they said that Christianity is clearly judgmental and unloving – so no one should promote that kind of bigotry.

I couldn't help but compare it to how some same sex and transgender athletes were applauded for using their sporting platform to promote their religion.

Don't be under any illusion – gender ideology is a very much a religion.

In fact, every ideology is a religion.

When you boil it all down there are **two** and only two religions.

**Religion 1 says:**

**The God of the Bible is ultimate and He makes the rules for life, death, judgment and salvation.**

**Religion 2 says:**

**The God of the Bible is not ultimate and something else makes the rules for life, death, judgment and salvation.**



**Religion 1 says:**

The God of the Bible is ultimate and He makes the rules for life, death, judgment and salvation.

**Religion 2 says:**

The God of the Bible is **not** ultimate and something else makes the rules for life, death, judgment and salvation.

If you don't like God's rules – if you object to them, if you decide God is too strict, too judgmental, too unloving – if you alter His rules or deny His rules – then whether you realise it or not – you fall into Religion 2.

And the one who decided the rules in religion 2 is you or some other human being.

This was Israel.



**Justice's day:**

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Israel came up with their own worship – and said – God what is your problem? – **worship is worship.**

Oh no! No – it is not.

God's way is worship – everything else is **false** worship.

Look at chapter 8 verses 1-3:

Israel clearly did not like keeping God's covenant and laws.

But as soon as the horn of judgment and the eagle of vengeance were looming – they were crying out – but we worship You – we know You.

God says – what I remember is that you rejected what was good – the laws and covenant of God.

So how can you not expect judgment? This enemy coming against you is actually My judgment.

You installed kings and leaders and worship without consulting Me.

Brothers and sisters, if you want to know what false worship looks like, then consider Israel.

1 Kings 12:26–32 describes the actions of Jeroboam – the first king of Israel after the nation was split in two:

Jeroboam said to himself, "The kingdom might now return to the house of David. If these people regularly go to offer sacrifices in the LORD's temple in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will return to ... Judah. ... So the king ...

made two golden calves, and he said to the people, "Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Israel, here are your gods who brought you up from the land of Egypt." He set up one in Bethel, and put the other in Dan. This led to sin. ... Jeroboam also made shrines on the high places and made priests from the ranks of the people who were not Levites. Jeroboam made a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival in Judah. He offered sacrifices on the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves he had made.

He made idols – two golden calves of all things – and said – this is your god – the one who saved you.

He appointed priests – but they were not Levites.

He put shrines – on the high places where pagans worshipped.

He created festivals – which were not approved by God.

He was a King – not a priest – but thought it was fine for him to offer sacrifices.

In his mind: **Worship is worship.**

No – this was his religion.

My golden calf. My priests. My shrines. My festivals. My sacrifices.

He thought God would be fine with them.

Really? – verses 5-6:

Your calf-idol is rejected, Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence? For this thing is from Israel— a craftsman made it, and it is not God. The calf of Samaria will be smashed to bits!

You dared fashion an idol – with your hands – called it Yahweh – and thought the one true God would be fine with His people bowing down to this?

I am going to smash it to pieces and you along with it. That is what I think of your worship.

Verse 7: You sowed the wind – you are going to reap the whirlwind.

I will remove your crops – they will not flourish or the nations will strip them.

Verses 8-10: You turned to your lovers the nations and to their gods of the nations. You are like a wild donkey in heat.

Of course, I must smash you.

Verses 11-12: You made altars and sacrifices thinking it would remove your sin – you in fact multiplied your guilt and sin.

I gave Israel my law – ten thousand points of instruction – but you regarded it as something strange – as foreign.

Israel chose the pagan laws of the Baals and said My law is strange – so you didn't obey it.

Verses 13-14:

Though they offer sacrificial gifts and eat the flesh, the LORD does not accept them. Now he will remember their guilt and punish their sins; they will return to Egypt. Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; Judah has also multiplied fortified cities. I will send fire on their cities, and it will consume their citadels.

I do **not** accept this worship, I **will** remember your sins and I **will** punish the nation.

**Israel has forgotten his Maker.**

I made you – I make the rules – you have forgotten this basic fact.

Chapter 9 verses 1-3 – you are prostituting yourself with the gods of the nations – I have to punish you.

Verses 4-6: The offering you make will not please Me. Keep your wine and sacrifices. I tell you – your rejoicing will become mourning. You cannot flee from the judgment to come.

Verses 7-9: You called My prophets fools and insane. You blocked my watchmen.

You rejected My ways and deeply corrupted yourselves. I **will** remember your iniquity and punish your sins.

God doesn't want the worship we think is right – He wants the worship He commands.

You can't pick and choose and decide what God should find acceptable.

Catholicism, Mormonism – many of the cults – the worship looks similar – but it is corrupt worship.

It is not **from** God, **to** God, **by** God's people – and He will judge it.

But we also need to remember that as Christians – God has been very, very clear about what true worship is and what the Lord expects.

Regular gathering of the church on the Lord's Day – not – if I have no better offer – not – I think ten times a year should be enough to show I am the Lord's.

Worship is to be based on the word of God. A regular diet of my personal thoughts on 'seven ways to a more successful marriage' and nothing on God's command to 'take up your cross and suffer' is not what God expects.

Committing our whole lives to God – not the bits we want to give Him. Here is the money and time I have leftover – that has to be worth something.

I have seen Christians create their own worship with good intentions.

Once I was at a small church and afterwards we were having coffee and biscuits and someone leaned over and said – this is how we do communion here – it helps build community – so think of Jesus as you eat your biscuit.

I am all for community but that is just not how God told us to celebrate the Lord's Table.

You can call it morning tea – you can't decide that is a better way to do communion.

I have had so many people tell me – I worship my way and God is fine with that. I love Jesus not the church. I just read my Bible at home on Sunday.

I'm all for Bible reading – but Jesus is so clear you can't love Him if you don't love His body the church.

Christians have told me – my God is love – He wouldn't say homosexual relations are wrong.

But hell just isn't fair – it just doesn't fit the God I worship.

Not liking hell does not mean it is not real.

God is love – but He is also the God who created gender, marriage and intimacy and He sets the rules not us.

Or my God will never condemn anyone who is sincere – like a sincere Muslim.

You have created your own god and your own worship.

God will say to these – you ignored My ten thousand points of instruction, fashioned your own calf, become your own priest and created your own religion.

Don't expect Me to say – I understand why you might not like My religion – so I'm fine with you coming up with your own – that shows admirable initiative.

I **must** judge false worship.

Israel would have had one final **plea**:



**Justice's day:**

**I will have a day of reckoning 6:11-7:2**

**Israel's plea:**

**We trusted You  
We worshipped You  
We crowned You**

**God's response:**

**No! You trusted man 7:3-16  
No! You worshipped man 8:1-9:9  
No! You crowned man 9:10-10:4**

**We crowned You.**

We made You our king.

God responds:

**No! You crowned man 9:10-10:4**

Israel said – God we chose You as our king – our leader.

God is clear – no that is lip service – you made yourselves king.

Chapter 9 verse 10.

God found Israel in the wilderness. They had such potential – they were like grapes in the wilderness or the first fruit of the fig tree.

I chose you. I will be your God – you will be My people.

God was their king – their only king.

But they said – no we want Baal as king. The sex, drink and prosperity in Baalism is cool.

God says you consecrate your lives not to Me – but to shame.

Verse 11:

Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird.

Israel's glory was God. Their glory was that they were the people of the one true God.

He chose them and loved them.

They chose another king so He has handed them over. He removed His glory.

They said – Baal will make us fruitful – no he can't only God can. So, the result is in verses 11-14 no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.

The very things they asked from Baal – they will not receive. The nations said Baal was the fertility god – no – it is the Lord who opens and closes wombs – children are a blessing from the Lord.

Verses 15-17 – Gilgal had a wonderful place in Israel's history. It is where Joshua first led the nation into the Promised Land. It was the place of Saul's first victory and where David returned from exile.

Now it was a centre for the worship of Baal.

God **had** to reject them.

Chapter 10 verses 1-2.

God chose Israel – blessed her – but she then used the fruits of that blessing to make alters and sacred pillars to Baal.

Now God **must** judge.

Look at verses 3-4 – they said we have no king – you are not our king God. We do not fear You Lord.

We don't need You as king. We have Baal. And of course we have the great king – **me**.

We made promises we had no intention of keeping.

We sat by while evil flourished.

But God is the one true King. He brooks no rivals. He demands we follow His word and nothing else.

Brothers and sisters – there are so many potential kings out there.

But perhaps the most pervasive and damaging king we can have – is us.

The world screams – you are your own King. Do not let anyone tell you how to live. You do you.

The problem is we are fools who will follow our lusts and desires and the result is ruinous.

King Me means we end up with a fool for a king.

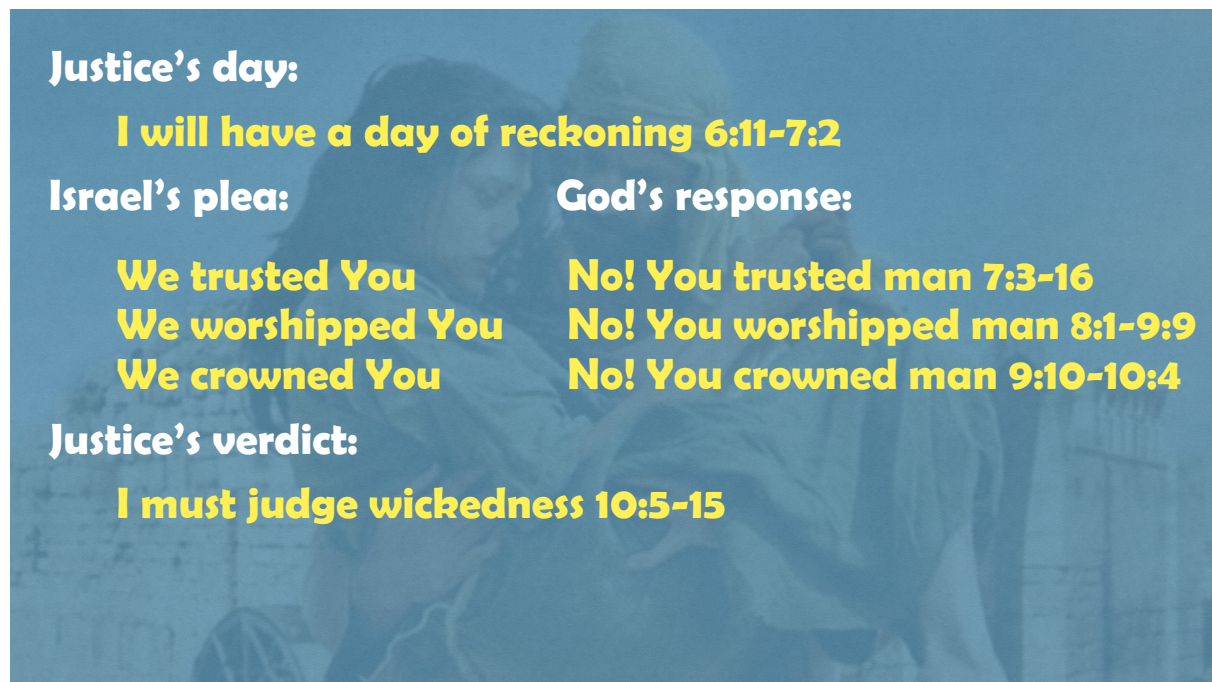
God is our Maker – He tells us how to live.

And to live in a way contrary to His rules can only lead to judgment.

And here endeth the lame excuses of Israel.

There is nothing left to say.

Now the judge of all things makes His pronouncement.



**Justice's day:**  
**I will have a day of reckoning 6:11-7:2**

<b>Israel's plea:</b>	<b>God's response:</b>
<b>We trusted You</b>	<b>No! You trusted man 7:3-16</b>
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<b>We crowned You</b>	<b>No! You crowned man 9:10-10:4</b>

**Justice's verdict:**  
**I must judge wickedness 10:5-15**

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**I must judge wickedness 10:5-15**

God's justice and holiness mean there is only one verdict – guilty – and the guilty must be punished.

Look at verses 5-7 – God has no choice, He must act.

The people of Samaria and their idols **will** be destroyed. Assyria **will** destroy the nation of Israel.

Verse 8 – the time of judgment will be so terrible that the people will say – Cover us and the hills, Fall on us.

They would rather die in an avalanche than face the judgment of a holy God.

These are the very words used in Revelation 6 of the return of Christ.

The judgment of God against sin is no joke – it is a fearful thing.

Finally, the penny drops – God is not a threatening repeating God who will not act. He will not just forget their sin – hell is not some figment of medieval imagination – the day of justice is near – and you will want to be anywhere else but standing before a holy God – the One you rejected as King.

Verses 9-10 – Israel has sinned since the days of Gibeah – a notorious place of rebellion.

So – I **will** discipline them at My discretion. I will use the nations they trusted.

I must judge wickedness.

Verses 11-14. I will place a yoke on your neck. You were meant to sow righteousness. I chose you to be a holy people. You produced wickedness and injustice.

Verse 15:

So it **will** be done to you, Bethel, because of your extreme evil. At dawn the king of Israel **will** be totally destroyed.

God has no option – His holiness has spoken. His justice must have its day.

This prophecy was fulfilled with chilling accuracy. In 722BC Assyria swept into the northern kingdom and totally decimated it. Almost all the people were killed, the cities were demolished and any treasures were taken back to Assyria.

The holiness and justice of God spoke.

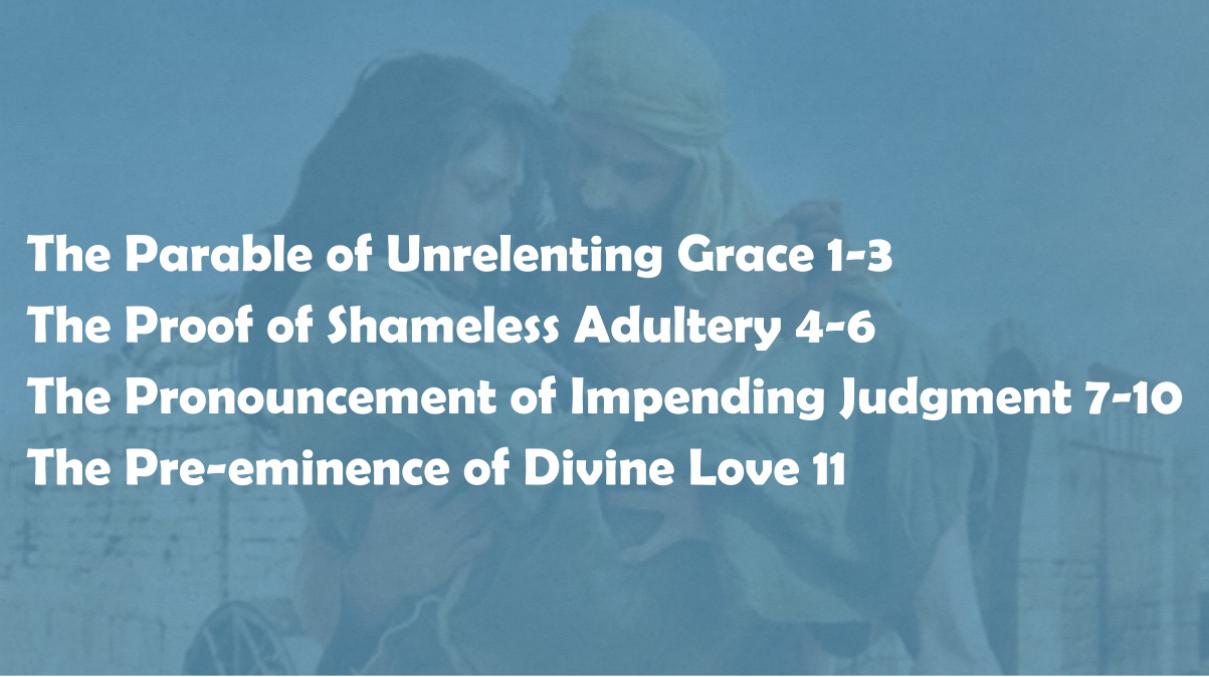
No excuse, no plea nothing could save Israel.

Again, it seems the message is ended. They were guilty and God must punish the guilty.

But then comes this totally different and unexpected note.

A note of love – a note of compassion – a note of grace.

Stunningly, we find:



**The Parable of Unrelenting Grace 1-3**  
**The Proof of Shameless Adultery 4-6**  
**The Pronouncement of Impending Judgment 7-10**  
**The Pre-eminence of Divine Love 11**

**The Pre-eminence of Divine Love**

Notice the change in tone here.

Up to this point, the Lord has been a betrayed husband – an avenging God.

Now the metaphor switches – He is now a loving parent. One who will do anything for His child.

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**Justice's verdict:**

**I must judge wickedness 10:5-15**

**Love's victory:**

**I will redeem My children 11:1-11**

The day of justice is not the final voice. Here we find.

## Love's victory:

### **I will redeem My children 11:1-11**

Hosea 11:1:

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Israel was His son. But this son was a prodigal – he loved the gods of the Egyptians, the Baals and every idol verse 2.

But, verses 3-4 – God could not abandon His child. He taught him to walk, held his hand, healed the scraped knees and elbows.

He eased their yoke and fed them.

Any parent who has raised a child knows that as they grow you are bonded to them by love.

The picture is a parent bonding forever with their child.

I have only known my grand-daughter Stella for a bit over 5 months. I could not imagine anything stopping me from loving her.

But, Israel didn't reciprocate these acts of love. Verses 5-8 – while Israel did not return to Egypt she did turn – not to God – but to Assyria.

It lead to judgment – the land was purged by the fires of Assyria.

But judgment did not end the love of God.

Look at what comes next – it is here that you can feel the love and heart of God Almighty.

Verse 8:

How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I surrender you, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? I have had a change of heart; my compassion is stirred!

This is one of the great verses of the Bible. My justice condemns you – but my love just can't let you go.

I can't leave my prodigal child destroyed, separated, hopeless. I can't let you remain destroyed like Admah and Zeboiim – the cities destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah.

My compassion – My love – My grace is stirred.

But how? God has made it clear He can't overlook sin. Justice must have its day. How can love triumph???

Then we come to perhaps the central verse in this book. Hosea 11:9:

## **Hosea 11:9:**

**I will not vent the full fury of my anger; I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim. For I am God and not man, the ????????? among you; I will not come in rage.**



I will not vent the full fury of my anger; I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim.  
For I am God and not man, the ????? among you; I will not come in rage.

God says – I just can't give you up Ephraim.

My compassion is stirred.

I will **not** vent the full fury of My anger.

I will **not** destroy you.

In verses 10-11 – God says He will gather a remnant from all the places He scattered them and place them back in the land in their homes.

This is the Lord's declaration.

How? How can God do this?

For I am God and not man, the ????? among you

Here is what we expect:

The Loving One – the Gracious One – the Compassionate One – among you.

You are My child – I love you – I just can't end you. I am the loving parent among you – so despite everything I will not punish you.

But here is the issue – even the love of God can't just ignore sin. Justice must have its day.

That is so clear in this book.

But – love found a way. And the way is about the only thing we don't expect:

### Hosea 11:9:

**I will not vent the full fury of my anger; I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim. For I am God and not man, the **Holy One** among you; I will not come in rage.**



For I am God and not man, the **Holy One** among you; I will not come in rage.

Holy One? This makes no sense.

All throughout this book the holiness of God has been the reason God **must** come in judgment. Why He can't just forgive their sin.

Now God says – because I am the **Holy One** among you I won't come in rage – in wrath???

This verse – verse 9 – was an absolute head-scratcher for the Jews. And if you understand the Old Testament it should be a head-scratcher for us.

In fact it made zero sense ... until ... the Holy One Himself – became man – and came among His people.

John 1:14:

The Word became flesh and dwelt **among us**.

The Holy One came among us.

What is going on?

Israel failed as God's child. She was supposed to sow righteousness and reap faithful love. Instead, she plowed wickedness and reaped injustice.

She was rejected as God's child.

Now, look back up at verse 1 of this chapter.

Out of Egypt I called My Son.

In Matthew 2 – this very verse is quoted – not of the failed Son – Israel – but of the Son who cannot fail – Jesus.

This Son lived a perfect life – He always pleased the Father. God said – in this One I am well pleased.

He sowed righteousness and reaped faithful love.

He was accepted. He earned no judgment.

But then as an act of supreme love – in His death He imputed – He credited us with His righteousness – His holiness.

Colossians 1:22:

But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him.

1 Peter 3:18:

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God.

It is the true Israel, the faithful Son – the Holy One **among us** – who comes and by faith we are in Him and we become holy.

Earlier I gave you the main point of the sermon – but it was only half the point.



## God's holiness demands judgment but His grace pays our penalty

God's holiness demands judgment but His grace pays our penalty

Justice is served – but it is love that paid our penalty.

However, this grace is only for those who are His.

Judgment fell on Israel and then on Judah – but God preserved a remnant.

From that remnant One came – His true Son – the Holy One – Jesus.

And those who by faith are joined to Him – became holy in Him – they became true sons and daughters of God and the wrath of God does not harm them.

Their penalty is paid.

They will not be among the multitude calling out for the rocks and mountains to hide them from the wrath of the Lamb.

God is Holy. He cannot overlook sin. He is not a threatening repeating God who does not act. He did act – against Israel and Judah **and** He acted at the cross. He punished us – in Christ.

But if you are not in Christ – then He **will** act again – on justice's final day.

If you are here this morning and think God won't act. If you think your works are enough. If you are trusting in anything other than God – worshipping any other god or following any other king – if you think you have any sufficient plea – you don't – you will be judged – eternally.

Our God is love. This does not mean there are no consequences to sin – it means there is a way of escape – a way for Him to pay our penalty and bear our consequences.

But the only way is through the Holy One who came among us and said – trust Me, worship Me, make Me your King – and receive the gift of My righteousness.

This is our gospel. This is our hope – our only hope.

This is our glory.

Amen.

# **The Pronouncement of Impending Judgment and the Pre-eminence of Divine Love (Hosea 6:11-11:11 August 15, 2021)**

**Main Point: God's holiness demands judgment but His grace pays our penalty**

## **General Questions:**

1. Why did Israel think God would not ultimately come in judgment against them?
2. Can God just overlook sin and decide to forgive? Why or why not?
3. In times of trouble – why is God so often the last port of call – even for Christians?
4. What are the things we can place our trust in that may turn out to be false areas of hope?
5. Do you agree that there are really only 2 religions? If so – what are they?
6. Why does worship have to be God's way?
7. What are the hallmarks of false worship?
8. In what ways can we inadvertently end up with false worship in our lives?
9. Does it matter if your false worship is sincere rather than wilful?
10. What does it mean to have God as King?
11. Why do men make very poor kings?
12. Why does a holy God **have** to come in judgment?
13. Can't God just change the rules and forgive?
14. How does the love of God allow Him to save His people and satisfy divine justice?

## **Application Questions:**

1. How can you learn to trust God first in times of trouble?
2. What commands, principles of God do you struggle with?
3. Where are you tempted to create your own version of God or own worship?
4. Why is King Me – mean having a fool for a king?

5. How can you use the dilemma of the divine justice and love only being satisfied on the cross to share the gospel?