

Hosea 14:4-9

The Trees of Israel

1. 14:3-4 – I Will Love Them Freely

- a. *“Asshur shall not save us”* - Asshur (son of Shem) built Ninevah (capital of Assyria)
- b. This is Israel giving up their idolatry, and false worship of their own works / inventions.
- c. *“I will heal their backsliding”* - They slid and cannot climb out of the pit they dug.
- d. *“I will love them freely”* - This is grace, ‘freely’ next found for Israel in Rev 21:6, 22:17
 - i. Paul says we have ‘free’ grace before the kingdom – Rom 3:24, 8:32, 1 Cor 2:12
- e. *“for mine anger is turned away”* - What assuaged wrath? Atones? Mediates?
 - i. The cross of Christ does all this (and more acc. to the mystery revealed)
 - ii. Prophecy necessitates God give grace to Israel to save them in their return.

2. 14:5 – Israel will be Planted

- a. 5 - *“I will be as the dew”* - I will heal, I will love them freely, I will water them to grow.
- b. *“Israel”* is planted in their land to flourish in their New Covenant kingdom - Isa 5:7
 - i. God will plant Israel (yes, even the north), back into their land - Amos 9:13-15
- c. *“he shall grow as the lily”* - Among thorns, without effort, glorious. Mat 6:28-29, So 2:1
- d. *“cast forth roots as Lebanon”* - Lebanon 3x; the highest and uppermost part of Israel
 - i. Solomon’s Song mentions love in terms of Israel’s land, trees, fruit, animals.
 - ii. Song 4:8-15 describes love toward what sounds like Israel’s glory - Song 5:15
 - iii. Established in excellence, high countenance, lifted to glory - Isa 2:13, 60:13
 - iv. At that time, all the Gentiles will come to them - Isa 60:1-5, 9, 11-21, Rom 11:25

3. 14:6 – Israel will Flourish

- a. 6 - *“His branches shall spread...”* - Israel will be enlarged - Psa 92:12-14, Prov 11:28-30
 - i. In prophecy, trees represent kingdom, power, glory. Dan 4:10-11, 20-21, Jdg 9:8
 - ii. Solomon spoke of trees in his wisdom, house, and temple - 1 Kings 4:33, 7:2
 - iii. Vine, fig, olive, cedar = Israel’s nation, good works, faith/light, appearance/glory
- b. *“beauty shall be as the olive tree”* - an ugly olive tree is fruitless or wild.

4. Hos 14:7 – Israel’s Return

- a. 7 - *“dwell under his shadow”* - Who is this beloved? Song 2:1-3, Ps 91:1, Isa 32:1-3
- b. *“shall return... revive... grow”* – Israel’s return is life from the dead – Rom 11:15
- c. The time when Israel’s seed prospers: the remnant returns - Zec 8:1-3, 7-8, 10-11
- d. Israel’s return is the final point to be made in Hosea: Hos 1:10-11, 2:2:21-23, 3:5

5. Hos 14:8-9 – Ephraim will Be Fruitful

- a. *“Ephraim shall say...”* - The first mention of Ephraim was due to idols – Hos 4:17
- b. *“green fir tree”* - Planted by the LORD in the wild to live forever - Isa 41:17-20, 5:1-6
- c. *“is fruit found”* - Remember, Ephraim means fruitful, but was not, until now.
 - i. Israel’s kingdom on earth includes Ephraim under the name Joseph – Rev 7:8
 - ii. Ephraim (2nd son) another example of in the kingdom how the last shall be first.
- d. *“wise... shall understand...”* - The LORD gives things to know - Pro 9:10, Ps 107:43
- e. *“ways of the LORD are right...”* - Rom 3:4, in his judgment and in his mercy.
- f. *“just shall walk in them, but the transgressors...”* - They must be faithful to the end.
 - i. This is the instruction for Hebrews not in the land, hopeful for their return.