

# Hosea 14

Repentance Leads to Restoration and Healing  
In The Nation That Returns to God and Individually

# Intro and Overview

**14:1: Cf. 10:14. 2–9: *Return, O Israel: Because of the powerful call for repentance and hope it conveys and the high poetic languages it uses, 14:1–10 eventually became a “classical” text in Jewish tradition and liturgy. As mentioned in the intro., it is read on Shabbat Shuvah (the Shabbat that precedes Yom Kippur) and in the afternoon service of Tish‘ah be‘av (Sephardic and Yemenite traditions). As in Deut. ch 30, once Israel returns, God returns to take them back. Vs 4: Find pity recalls “Lo-ruhamah” of 1:8 and its reversal in 2:3. The verse as a whole is a rejection by Israel of its past behavior, rejecting improper political alliances and foreign deities. Vs 8: Contrast with 9:1–2.***

***Vs 10: The prophetic word should not merely be heard once, but must be carefully studied (see intro. to The Twelve).***

- Berlin, A., Brettler, M. Z., & Fishbane, M. (Eds.). (2004). *The Jewish Study Bible* (pp. 1164–1165). New York: Oxford University Press.

# Intro and Overview

## Trei Asar Commentary

Even after the remainder of the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been conquered, the capital city of Samaria still stood (Radak). However, the peace they enjoyed was to be short-lived.; soon the sword of the enemy would befall them and bring death and destruction to the city. Thus, the prophet directs his words to Samaria to foretell its terrible fate.

# Hosea 14 (Read entire Chapter)

- Key vs 1-2
- Hos 14:1 Samaria will bear her guilt, for she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword, their infants dashed to pieces, their pregnant women ripped open.
- **Hos 14:2** Return O Israel, to Adonai your God, for you have stumbled in your iniquity.

# Hosea 1-2 Trei Asar Commentary

- vs 1 Samaria shall be laid waste and rendered desolate (ibn Ezra; Radak; Abarbanel; Metzudos), for she has been the primary culprit in the decadence and idolatry of Israel – as the leaders residing there have set the tone for the entire nation (Radak). Therefore, her inhabitants shall die by the sword (ibn Ezra); her infants will be cruelly dashed against the rocks to shatter their bodies; and her pregnant woman will be split open (by the enemy) (Rashi; Radak)
- Vs 2 Hosea issues the clarion call to the Jewish nation to repent their evil deeds and return to the Almighty with all their hearts. Appropriately these words are read throughout the congregations of Israel on the Sabbath between Roash Hashanah and Yom Kippur, when awareness of one's obligations to God and his deficiencies therein- as well as sensitivity to the Divine and involvement in true repentance- are at their height.

# Hosea 1-2 Trei Asar Commentary

- vs 2 cont. take heed of my words of rebuke and return to the Almighty God, for you have stumbled in misfortune due to your sins, and only Hashem can raise you up again (Rashi; ibn Ezra; Radak)
- There are various views among the commentators as to whom is being addressed with these words. According to some, they are directed to the citizens of Samaria, in continuation of the previous verse. Since it has been decreed upon you that you will be destroyed, it is an absolute necessity that you immediately repent and return to the ways of Hashem, so that you can still be saved (Mahari Kara; Metzudos David)
- Others perceive this verse as being directed to the nation of Judah, who witnessed the downfall of neighboring Samaria. The prophet exhorts them to repent the evil in their own lives lest they too succumb to a similar fate.

# Hosea 14:3

- **Hos 14:3** Take words with you and return to Adonai. Say to Him: “Take away all iniquity, and accept what is good, so we may repay with offerings of our lips:
- Trei Asar Commentary: Those sacrifices which we should be offering to You we will replace with the appeasing words of our lips (Rashi). Indeed, our words of repentance are preferable to You over our sacrifices, as evidenced by the fact that even sacrifices are of no value if they are not accompanied by words of confession (Radak)

## Hosea 14:3

- In the Siddur, these words are understood to serve as the basis for the substitution of prayer in place of sacrifices as the focal point of the Jews service to Hashem; Master of the Universe! You commanded us to sacrifice the daily offerings....Now, the daily offering is abolished, and we have neither Kohen serving, Levite performing, nor Israel in attendance. However, You have declared: and we will pay (for) bulls (with) our lips. (Although, we long for the day when the Temple will be rebuilt and we can once more serve You with our prayers and our sacrifices, we know that the utterance of our lips alone can be pleasing to You as even the Yom Kippur service (c; Shir Hashrim Rabbah 4:9)



# Repentance The Key to Forgiveness

- **H7725 שׁוּב SHUV**
- šûḇ: A verb meaning to turn, to return, to go back, to do again, to change, to withdraw, to bring back, to reestablish, to be returned, to bring back, to take, to restore, to recompense, to answer, to hinder. The verb is used over one thousand times and has various shades of meaning in its four stems. In the simple stem, it is used to describe divine and human reactions, attitudes, and feelings.
- The verb describes the possibility that Israel might change (turn) their minds and return to Egypt (Exo 13:17). Josiah the king turned back to the Lord with all his soul, and strength (2Ki 23:25; Jer 34:15). Nevertheless, the Lord did not turn from the anger He held toward Judah (2Ki 23:26; Jer 4:28). Job pleaded with his miserable comforters to relent (i.e., turn away) from him (Job 6:29). God's people will return (repent) and seek Him in the last days (Deu 30:2; Isa 59:20; Hos 3:5) instead of turning away from Him as they are now; to return to Egypt (Isa 6:10; Hos 11:5). God's call was persistently for His people to return to Him (1Ki 8:33; Jer 4:1). Any nation can repent and turn to God for forgiveness (Jer 18:8).

# Repentance The Key to Forgiveness

- **Hos 6:1** Come, let us return to Adonai. For He has torn, but He will heal us. He has smitten, but He will bind us up. TLV
- **Hos 12:7** So you should return to your God, keep covenant loyalty and and wait for your God continually.
- **1Sa 7:3** Then Samuel spoke to the whole house of Israel saying, “If you are returning to Adonai with all your heart, then remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you, direct your hearts to Adonai and serve Him only. Then He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.”
- **1Sa 7:4** So Bnei-Yisrael removed the Baalim and the Ashtaroth, and served Adonai alone.

# Repentance The Key to Forgiveness

- 2Ch 30:6 At the king's command, the couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his officials saying: "You men of Israel, turn back to Adonai, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, and He will return to the remnant of you who escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.
- 2Ch 30:7 Do not be like your fathers and brothers who acted unfaithfully against Adonai, the God of their fathers, so that He made them a horror as you see.
- Isa 55:6 Seek Adonai while He may be found, call on Him while He is near.
- **Isa 55:7** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous one his thoughts, let him return to Adonai, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

# Repentance The Key to Forgiveness

- Jer 3:12 Go! Proclaim these words toward the north, saying: “Return backsliding Israel,” says Adonai. “I will no longer frown on you, for I am merciful,” says Adonai. “I will not keep a grudge forever.
- Jer 3:13 Only acknowledge your iniquity. For you sinned against Adonai your God and scattered your favors to foreign gods under every green tree. You have not obeyed My voice.” It is a declaration of Adonai.
- **Jer 4:1** “If you will return, O Israel, return to Me,” declares Adonai. “If you will put your detestable things out of My sight. Then you will not waver.
- Joe 2:12 “Yet even now”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting.”
- Joe 2:13 Rend your heart, not your garments, and turn to Adonai, your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in mercy, and relenting about the calamity due.

# Repentance The Key to Forgiveness

- Zec 1:3 Therefore tell them, thus says Adonai-Tzva'ot, 'Return to Me'—it is a declaration of Adonai-Tzva'ot—'and I will return to you,' says Adonai-Tzva'ot.
- Zec 1:4 Do not be like your fathers to whom the former prophets cried out saying, thus says Adonai-Tzva'ot, 'Turn back now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not listen or pay attention to Me.' It is a declaration of Adonai.
- Act 26:18 to open their eyes—so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of satan to God, that they may receive release from sins as well as a place among those who are made holy through trusting in Me.'
- Act 26:19 "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.
- Act 26:20 Rather, I kept declaring—first to those in Damascus, and then Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also the Gentiles—that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds consistent with that repentance.

# Trei Asar Commentary

- Having exhorted the people to repent and return wholeheartedly to Hashem, the prophet now goes on to depict the reaction such a course will evoke from The Almighty.
- **Hos 14:5 “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger will turn away from him**
- I will provide a remedy for their deviance and rebellion, which is a sickness to the soul as illness is to the body (ibn Ezra; Radak).

# I will Heal

- **H7495** רָפָאֵ Rapha
- rāpa`: A verb meaning to heal, to make fresh. It describes the process of healing, being restored to health, made healthy, usable, fertile: of Abimilech's household being restored to fertility (Gen 20:17); of physical and spiritual healing (Isa 53:5); of wounds being restored (Lev 13:18; Jer 15:18); of water being restored to a healthy state, drinkable, wholesome (2Ki 2:21-22); of the repair, restoration of an altar (1Ki 18:30); of many diseases being healed (Deu 28:27, Deu 28:35). In its participial forms, it refers to a person who acts as a physician, a healer: God, the Lord, as Israel's healer (Gen 20:17; Exo 15:26; Job 13:4). It describes the restoring of a person's soul, life (Psa 41:4 [5]). In an emphatic construction, it indicates having a person healed, cared for (Exo 21:19). It is used in its reflexive infinitive to note a purpose, in order to be (get) healed, from (min) wounds inflicted in battle (2Ki 8:29; 2Ki 9:15). God alone was able to heal the wounds of His broken people (Hos 5:13; Hos 6:1; Hos 7:1). A true leader in Israel was to heal, care for the people of Israel (Zec 11:16).

# I will Heal

- Exo 15:26 He said, “If you diligently listen to the voice of Adonai your God, do what is right in His eyes, pay attention to His mitzvot, and keep all His decrees, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians. For I am Adonai who heals you.”
- Isa 57:18 I have seen his ways, but I will heal him. I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners.
- Jer 3:22 “Return, backsliding children! I will heal your backsliding.” “Yes, we will come to You for You are Adonai Eloheinu.
- **Jer 8:18** My joy is overcome by grief, my heart is faint within me.
- Jer 8:19 Listen, the sound of the cry of the daughter of my people—a voice from a distant land—“Is Adonai no longer in Zion? Is her King no longer in her?” “Why have they provoked Me with their graven images, with foreign idols?”
- Jer 8:20 “Harvest is past, summer is over, yet we are not saved.”
- Jer 8:21 “Because of the brokenness of the daughter of my people, I am brokenhearted. I mourn—desolation grips me.
- Jer 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Then why has no healing gone up for the daughter of my people?
- Jer 8:23 If only my head were water and my eyes a fountain of tears, then I would weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!



# I will Heal

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- **Jer 17:14** Heal me, Adonai, and I will be healed. Save me, and I will be saved. For You are my praise.
- Jer 33:6 “Indeed, I will bring it health and healing, and I will surely heal them. I will  
Mat 9:12 But when He heard this, Yeshua said, “Those who are healthy have no need for a doctor, but those who are sick do.
- Mat 9:13 Now go and learn what this means: ‘Mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.’ For I didn’t come to call the righteous, but the sinful.”
- I reveal to them an abundance of shalom and truth.

# Those Who Dwell In His Shade shall return

- Hos 14:6 **I will be like dew for Israel.** He will blossom like a lily, and thrust out his roots like Lebanon.
- Hos 14:7 His tender shoots will spread out. His beauty will be like an olive tree and his fragrance will be like Lebanon.
- **Hos 14:8 Those dwelling in his shadow will return. They will grow grain and bud like a vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.**
- Hos 14:9 Ephraim: “What more are idols to me? I have responded and observed Him. I will be like a luxuriant cypress tree. From me will be found Your fruit.”
- Hos 14:10 Who is wise? Let him discern these things. Who is intelligent? Let him know them. For the ways of Adonai are straight, and the just walk in them, but the wicked stumble in them.

# Those Who Dwell In His Shade shall return

- Trei Asar
- **Hos 14:8 Those dwelling in his shadow will return. They will grow grain and bud like a vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.**
- Those who dwell in the shade of the tree- i.e. of the nation of Israel – will return to that shade, unable to part from it due to its lovely fragrance and fruits (Obn Ezra; Mahari; Kara; R'Eliezer of Beaugency)) This refers to the slaves, who will attach themselves to the Jewish nation and be farmers and vinedressers (Ibn Ezra). Many commentators interpret the shade as being that of the Almighty; The Jewish nation will return to their land and dwell under the protection of Hashem (Radak). Alternatively, this refers to the proselytes who will come to place themselves under the shade of the Almighty (Yalkut)
- **Targum renders this first half of the verse as follows:** *They will gather from their exile and dwell in the shade of their Messiah and their dead will be resurrected and they will enjoy an abundance of good!*

# God's love for His People Israel

- Hos 14:5 “I will heal their backsliding, **I will love them freely**, for My anger will turn away from him.
- **H157** אָהַב Avavah
- 'āhab: A verb meaning to love. The semantic range of the verb includes loving or liking objects and things such as bribes (Isa 1:23); wisdom (Pro 4:6); wine (Pro 21:17); peace, truth (Zec 8:19); or tasty food (Gen 27:4, Gen 27:9, Gen 27:14). The word also conveys love for other people (Gen 29:32; Rth 4:15; 1Ki 11:1); love for God (Exo 20:6; Psa 116:1); **and also God's love of people (Deu 4:37; 1Ki 10:9; Hos 3:1)**.

# God's love for His People Israel

- Deu 7:7 It is not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that Adonai set His love on you and chose you—for you are the least of all peoples.
- Deu 7:8 Rather, because of His love for you and His keeping the oath He swore to your fathers, Adonai brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
- **Zep 3:17** Adonai your God is in your midst—a mighty Savior (El Gibbor)! He will delight over you with joy. He will quiet you with His love. He will dance for joy over you with singing.'

# God's love for His People Israel

- Rom 3:21 But now God's righteousness apart from the Torah has been revealed, to which the Torah and the Prophets bear witness—
- Rom 3:22 namely, the righteousness of God through putting trust in Messiah Yeshua, to all who keep on trusting. For there is no distinction,
- Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Rom 3:24 They are set right as a gift of His grace, through the redemption that is in Messiah Yeshua.
- Rom 3:25 God set forth Yeshua as an atonement, through faith in His blood, to show His righteousness in passing over sins already committed.

# God's love for His People Israel

- Eph 1:5 He predestined us for adoption as sons through Messiah Yeshua, in keeping with the good pleasure of His will—
- Eph 1:6 to the glorious praise of His grace, with which He favored us through the One He loves!
- Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood—the removal of trespasses—in keeping with the richness of His grace
- Eph 2:4 But God was rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.
- **Eph 2:5** Even when we were dead in our trespasses, He made us alive together with Messiah. (By grace you have been saved!)
- Eph 2:6 And He raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Messiah Yeshua—
- Eph 2:7 to show in the olam ha-ba the measureless richness of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Yeshua.
- Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God.
- Eph 2:9 It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast.
- Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship—created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them.

# God's love for His People Israel

- 2Ti 1:9 He has saved us and called us with a holy calling—not because of our deeds but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Messiah Yeshua before time began,
- 2Ti 1:10 but now has been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Messiah Yeshua. Indeed, He nullified the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the Good News.
- Tit 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared—
- Tit 3:5 not by deeds of righteousness which we had done ourselves, but because of His mercy—He saved us through the mikveh of rebirth and renewing of the Ruach ha-Kodesh,
- Tit 3:6 whom He abundantly poured out on us through Messiah Yeshua our Savior,
- Tit 3:7 so that being set right by His grace, we might become heirs with the confident hope of eternal life!