

B. The character of the Lord

It is not easy to assess the Lord's character...we tend to see him in light of people and people we have known...or in the light of our circumstances or just in an imaginative way built out of our own desires. But in Hosea we learn a lot about the character of God and I am trying to enumerate it (partially) in this listing. Reading the Book we become aware of the personal interest of the Lord in His people and His identification with them. The following items stand out for me and we will "run over them" lightly.

1 God is *compassionate*

Hosea 2

--1-4, the scene

--5-13, Ephraim's departure

--14-23, God's compassion

2. God is *consistent (constant)*

His attitude does not change day by day...His openness and considered instructions are steady. There are no sudden attitudinal changes with the Lord.

Hosea 5:17 is a good starting point

3. God is *omniscient*

This is a more formal theological term and it simply means that God knows all...even what we would like to hide.

Hosea 7:-5

Ephraim had much for which the nation should have been ashamed...but God knew it all...and loved the people still.

4. God is *persistent*

Hosea 7:11-16..we know He does not give up but the manner in which He works to His ends is often not easily seen by us.

5. God is *zealous* for His people. The real word is jealous but that is poorly understood in our culture so we run the risk of explaining the approximate synonym. Study it in

Hosea 10-----vs 1-8 Ephraim's state

9-15 God's charge and challenge

6. God is *merciful*.

Hosea 11:5-9.....In our culture mercy is often confused with casuality or indulgence. These terms do not define the Lord. He has mercy and pardon...He does not simply look the other way and walk away from that which is wrong.

7, God is *omnipotent*

Hosea 13:9-14 ..all powerful is the Lord...Ephraim thought to challenge Him but not challenges are threatening to God.