

## 8. God is *righteous and loving*

Hosea 14...This is the very heart of God and if we listed the characteristic in the order in which they affect us we would probably list these at the top of the page. "Just" is the word that we use for righteous and it teaches not only what God is in character but what He also is in performance. This chapter is beautiful and I will walk through it for a few minutes to indicate its breakdown including the time when Ephraim will be fully restored and will realize that God alone is the God of the people. In this chapter we see **love fulfilled** as I have indicated in our series title After all the deceit, treachery, apostasies, and spiritual adulteries, Israel is returned forever to the joy of the Lord. Love is maximized. We learn a lot from this and I will ramble for awhile and tell a few stories observed in the family...so, either you should brace yourself or prepare for a long siesta.

### C. The Ways of God

And we know that the ways of God are inscrutable.....we cannot understand them all and cannot predict exactly how things will work out. But from Hosea we learn some important and instructive things:

#### 1. God acts in *sovereignty*.

In Hosea we see that He chooses  
He blesses  
He administrates

from a position of authority. He hears and responds to the needs of His people but He is not under orders from them or any other power. In His sovereignty He allocates to us a lot of decision making powers (He told Hosea to marry a woman of ill-repute but, as far as we can see, He did not name the woman. Hosea had to find her "on his own" so to speak)

#### 2. God *chastises* to restore.

Hosea 5:1-15 helps us to see the methods of chastisement... some of them, at least. His chastising tools are:

economic: the crops may fail, etc.

political: an enemy may come

sociological: the people may be in a revolting mood.

This is not a complete listing but for the moment we may say that any adversity may be a means of correction in the hand of God. It made the nation (or will make us) think of the Divine will and that thinking may be corrective in time and action. God