Hosea - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 9

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“Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn, and He will heal us: He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we Follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth” — Hosea 6:1-3.

IT is a great thing to realize that human sin and failure do not alter the love of God toward those who have offended Him so grievously. He loves us, not on account of anything meritorious that Ile sees in us, but simply because of what lie is in Himself. “God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16). This is not what He does, but what He is. It is His very nature. And loving us, He has Himself provided a way for our forgiveness in the first place, when we come to Him as needy sinners, and our restoration, when we fail, even after we have known His grace in this initial sense. We wrong Him if we doubt His love or if we give in to despair when our awakened consciences accuse us of base ingratitude and colossal iniquity in having offended against so holy a God and so loving a Saviour.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 8

“I will betroth thee unto Me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and is lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness: and thou shall know the Lord” — Hosea 2:19, 20.

HOSEA is in some respects the tenderest of all the prophets, unless we except Jeremiah, who was a man of very similar spirit.

But the latter was unmarried, whereas Hosea had a very sad matrimonial experience, which was designed of God to set forth Israel’s relationship to Himself and their unfaithfulness to the covenant He had made with them. Hosea’s wife proved untrue to all her vows and became a poor characterless slave. Yet the prophet sought her out, redeemed her, and took her to himself in forgiving love, only to have his heart broken by her continued waywardness. It sets forth most graphically, not only Jehovah’s unchanging love for Israel, His earthly people, but it pictures vividly His grace toward the individual soul. He is Redeemer, Restorer, and unfailing Friend, whose loving-kindness exceeds our worst offenses and whose forgiveness is extended to every repentant sinner, no matter how dark and shameful the record may be.

—W. Robinson.

Daily Sacrifice, May 11

“O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in Me is thine help. I will be thy King: where is any other that may save thee?”— Hosea 13:9, 10.

THE question finds its only answer in Acts 4:12, where the Apostle Peter declares, when speaking of the risen Christ, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” The Lord Jesus is God the Son become Man to accomplish our redemption. To receive Him in faith is to be saved eternally. To turn from Him in unbelief is to be lost forever—to destroy oneself. There is no other alternative.