

GOD'S COVENANT: COSMOS-EMBRACING; DECALOGICAL; IRREVOCABLE

The Prophet Hosea (around B.C. 750) made a very important prediction. That forecast, at its deepest level, apparently refers to the work of the Second Adam Jesus Christ -- and to the then-still-to-be-outpoured gift of His Holy Spirit on the New Testament's first Pentecost Sunday. Here is that divine prognostication.

Wrote God's Prophet Hosea: "Come, and let us return to the Lord! For He has torn; but He will heal us. He has smitten; yet He will bind us up. After two days, **He will revive us.** On the third day **He will raise us up, and we shall live....** Then **He shall come to us, like the rain** -- like the latter and former rain -- to the Earth....

"But they [viz. the children of Ephraim and Israel and Judah], **like Adam, have transgressed the Covenant.**" Yet "**also** for you, **O Judah, He has appointed a harvest -- when I return [or **when I turn back and change**] the captivity of **My People,**"¹¹⁰⁰ says the Lord.**

Now this passage is anchored in **Adam's transgression of the Covenant of Life.** The Triune God established it with the unfallen Adam, in Paradise itself.

The verses at the beginning of this chapter in Hosea, certainly seem to be predicting Christ's being torn and smitten in death -- and of His then living again when risen from the dead "on the third day." But they also seem to be a foreshadowing even of God's raising up of His New Testament Visible Church. For that Church "revives" precisely in and through the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ Himself on behalf of His people.

Moreover, ten days after His Own Ascension, Christ would indeed cause His people to "live in His sight." For then, in the Person of His **Holy Spirit**, on the Newer Testament's first **Pentecost Sunday** He Himself would come back to His people "**as the rain**" -- just as He had promised to do.

Hosea explains that also the Hebrews, "like Adam,¹¹⁰¹ have transgressed the Covenant."¹¹⁰² They broke the Covenant, like Adam -- because they had transgressed it already, in Adam. God breathed **His Spirit** into man; man sinned; **man needs the rainlike Spirit to revive him!**

From this, it is apparent that God originally made a **Covenant of Life and Works** with the Spirit-filled Adam -- be fruitful!; fill the Earth; promote life!; cultivate and guard!; name and catalogue!; subdue the Cosmos! Genesis 1 & 3 and Psalm 8. It is a Covenant which Adam **transgressed**. Still re-transgressible, **that Covenant is yet binding**, because **never rescinded**.

The **nature** of Adam's transgression (and also of the later rather similar transgression of God's People in Hosea's own time), is then described. It is a **transgression** of the **comprehensive** principles of the **Decalogue** -- and thus of **Cosmos-embracing scope**.

For treachery, robbery, misalliance, unpriestliness, murder, lewdness, and covetousness all **transgress** the Covenant¹¹⁰³ **comprehensively**. Thus their **opposites** -- faithfulness, protecting private property, good alliances, holy priestliness, promoting life, and sexual integrity -- similarly all constitute the **keeping** of the Covenant just as comprehensively, with **cosmos-embracing** results.

Dr. Calvin concludes his comment on Hosea six with this mighty prayer: "Grant, Almighty God..., that being strengthened by the help of Your **Spirit we** may continue in purity of faith! May what **we** have learnt concerning You -- that You are a **Spirit** -- so **profit** us, that we may **worship You in Spirit** and with a sincere heart, and never turn aside!... May we so devote our souls and bodies to You -- that our life may in every part of it testify that we are a pure and holy sacrifice to You, in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

Also Rev. Dr. Matthew Henry comments: "The People of God may not only be 'torn' and 'smitten'.... Left for dead, they may lie so -- a great while.

"But they shall not always lie so -- nor shall they long lie so. God will, in a little time, **revive** them; and the assurance given them of this, should engage them to return and adhere to Him. This [Hosea 6:1-7] seems to have a further reference to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.... The time limited, is expressed by the 'two days' and the 'third day'....

"It may be a type...of Christ's rising the 'third day.' This He is said to do 'according to the Scripture' [First Corinthians 15:4]; according to **this** Scripture [Hosea 6:2f]....

"It is every way suitable that a prophecy of Christ's rising should be expressed thus. He will raise **us** up; and **we** shall live. For Christ rose as the **First-fruits**; and **we revive** with Him. **We live** -- through Him."

Indeed, **in His Spirit on Pentecost Sunday**, "He shall come to us...as the rain -- 'as the latter and former rain unto the Earth.' This **refreshes** it, and **makes it fruitful**....

"Now this...no doubt was to have its full accomplishment in [**the Adamic Jesus**] -- **Christ [the Covenant-keeping Second Adam]** and the [**Spirit-empowered**] **grace of the Gospel**.... John the Baptist was His forerunner [where he predicted that **Christ would baptize with the Holy Ghost**]....

"As the rain to this earth..., He shall come down as the rain upon the mown grass. Psalm 72:6. In Him, **showers of blessings** descend upon this World... '**like the cloud of the latter rain**' (Proverbs 16:15). The grace of God in Christ [and His Spirit] is both '**the latter rain and the former rain**.' For by it, the good work of our **fruit-bearing** is both begun and carried on."

Matthew Henry also commented that Hosea's Ephraimites and Gileadites and Israelites and the Judeans all "trod in the steps of our first parents. '**They**, like **Adam**, have transgressed the Covenant' -- so it might very well be read. As **he** transgressed the Covenant of Innocency, so **they** transgressed the Covenant of Grace."

Rev. Professor Dr. G.Ch. Aalders says¹¹⁰⁴ that in Hosea 6:7, "the **transgression** of the **Covenant with Adam**...must be the sin of Paradise -- the Fall described in Genesis 3. The Covenant was made with Adam and in him with the entire human race -- as too was the Covenant after the Flood [Genesis 2:16f & 6:18 & 9:1-17f].... This Covenant [made with Adam] existed already **before** the Fall, and was transgressed by the Fall (Hosea 6:7).... Paul draws a clear parallel between Adam and Christ.... First Corinthians 15:21f.... Romans 5:12-19.... Scripture here reveals to us in a clear way -- that **the same position** is occupied by **Christ** in the **Covenant of Grace**, as **Adam** occupied in the **Covenant of Works**....

"Christ does -- what Adam did not do.... Christ fulfilled [or kept] the **Law of God** -- which Adam horribly transgressed.... By this fulfilment of the **demand** of that Covenant, He earned everlasting **life** for those who are His....

"**The Covenant of Works** was not pushed to one side or removed after man's Fall. It **remains standing**, and **keeps its power**.... Christ, by His **obedience to the Law of God** which we call His '**active obedience**' (in contradistinction to his 'passive obedience' consisting of His payment for all our guilt) -- completely complied with its demands. Thereby, He obtained righteousness and life for those who are His."

After His diagnosis of His people's sins, the Great Physician also gave His Own recommended treatment. For God's sole remedy for sin in His elect, was and is the Resurrection of the sinless Christ as the Last Adam and second man in the place of His people.

That resulted in His Ascension into Heaven. Ten days later, it further resulted in the **descent of His Holy Spirit into their hearts**.

Said Hosea of the Lord: "He has torn; but He will heal us. He has smitten; yet He will bind us up. After two days [*cf.* Good Friday and Easter Saturday], He will revive us. On the third day He will raise us up [*cf.* Easter Sunday],¹¹⁰⁵ and we shall live [in Christ]....

"His going forth [from the empty tomb near Calvary] is prepared like the morning. And He [in His **Holy Spirit** on **Pentecost Sunday**] shall come to us, like the rain -- like the latter and former rain [comes] to the ground."¹¹⁰⁶

First. Jesus shall come **for** His people. Second, His Spirit shall come **to** His people. Third, "He will revive us"¹¹⁰⁷ -- **within** us, as His people.

Thus revived -- "Israel" (alias the Newer Testament's elect) -- shall repent. Then that "Israel" will join Christ's Church (consisting of Christian Hebrews and Christian Gentiles).

Urges Hosea: "Come, and let us return to the Lord! For He has torn; but He will heal us. He has smitten; yet He will bind us up. After two days, He will revive us.

"On the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live before His eyes. Then we shall know -- if we continue following on, to know the Lord.... Also for you, O Judah, **He has appointed a harvest!**"¹¹⁰⁸

Yes, **also Judah** -- and the descendants of those who rejected Christ when He came -- shall one day be part of the "**harvest**." That shall be accomplished when, in Missions to Jews, the Redeemer and His Word go forth from the true Zion of the Christian Church -- in order to turn away ungodliness from Jacob. Romans 11:25-26.

The promises of **the coming of God the Holy Ghost** commence in Genesis and **the covenant-breaking first Adam**, and peak in those of Joel which were **fulfilled with the covenant-keeping Second Adam's sending of the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday**. This whole sequence is summarized in what we may well call '**the Gospel according to Hosea**' (6:1-11). It predicts saved man's decalogical subduing of the **whole Cosmos**, in the power of the **Spirit**.

Both Gentile-Christian and Hebrew-Christian believers shall revive (through Christ's shed blood and His outpoured **Spirit's** mighty operations). May we, then, keep on working for God -- until we see all God's People **return** to the Lord -- converted, healed, **revived**, restored, and knowledgeable in Almighty God, while keeping on following Him everywhere! For He has set for **them** a **harvest** -- of **cosmic size**. Cf. First Corinthians 15:22-28 and Hebrews 1:6-13f & 2:5-10 & 10:12-16 with Kuyper's *De Leer der Verbonden* on Hosea 6:1-11.

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