



Lesson Fourteen: Life and Death
Hosea 13
Robby Higginbottom | May 5, 2026

Hosea 13:1-16

- ¹ When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling;
he was exalted in Israel, but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.
- ² And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images,
idols skillfully made of their wilver, all of them the work of craftsmen.
It is said of them, “Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!”
- ³ Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away,
like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.
- ⁴ But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt;
you know no God but Me, and besides Me there is no savior.
- ⁵ It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought;
⁶ but when they had grazed, they became full,
they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot Me.
- ⁷ So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way.
- ⁸ I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast,
and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.
- ⁹ He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against Me, against your Helper.
- ¹⁰ Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities?
Where are all your rulers—those of whom you said, “Give me a king and princes”?
- ¹¹ I gave you a king in My anger, and I took him away in My wrath.
- ¹² The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store.
- ¹³ The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son,
for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb.
- ¹⁴ I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death.
O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?
Compassion is hidden from My eyes.



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- ¹⁵ Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind,
the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness,
and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched;
it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing.
- ¹⁶ Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God;
they shall fall by the sword;
their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 9:23-26 together. What does Jesus say here about life and death?
How do we tend to see things “upside-down” when it comes to life and death?
2. What have we learned in Hosea about seeking life in idols? (vv. 1-3)
How does the Bible’s teaching motivate us to seek the true God? (See also Psalm 115:4-8.)
3. What have we learned about God’s love for His people as their Redeemer/Husband? (vv. 4-8)
How do His threats of judgment make more sense in light of the covenant relationship?
4. How do we seek life in a king or other person in this world? (vv. 9-11)
Why is this a recipe for disappointment?
5. How do we misinterpret the lack of immediate judgment in our lives? (vv. 12-13)
(Consider what Paul says about this in Romans 2:4-5.)
6. How do we see Hosea 13:14 fulfilled in the New Testament? (See 1 Corinthians 15.)
7. How does the fear of death enslave us? How does Jesus set us free? (See Hebrews 2:14-15.)
8. In what specific ways is the Lord calling us to turn from death to life?