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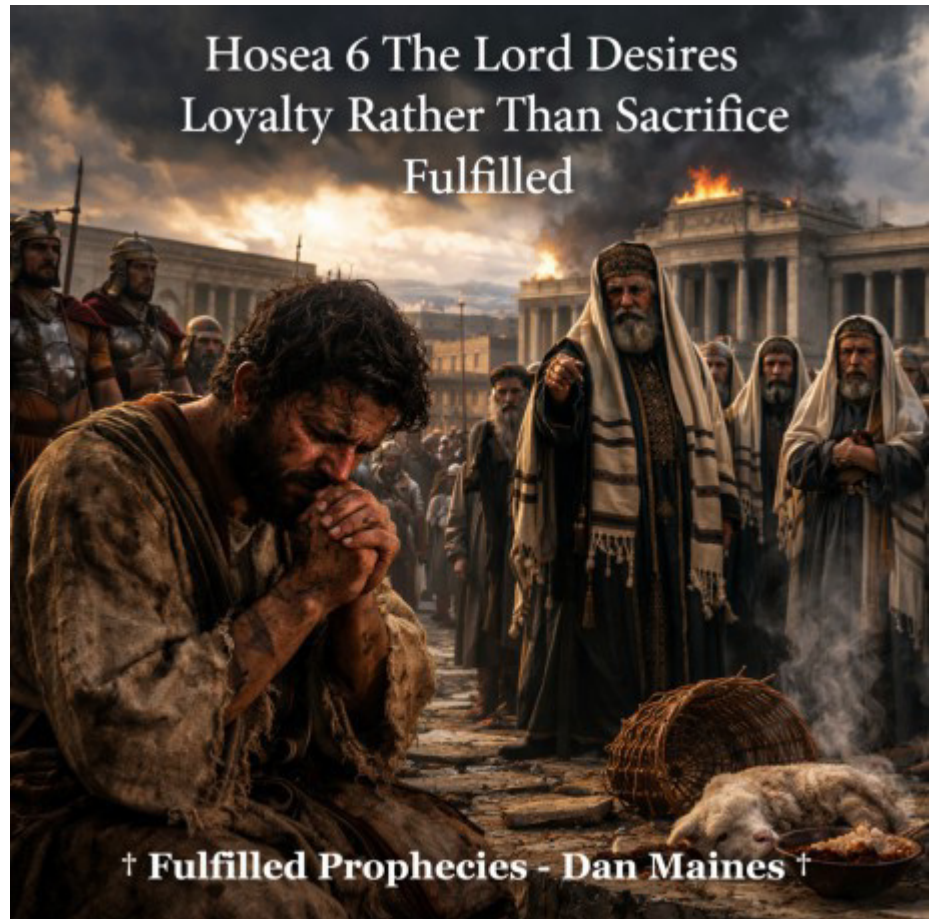
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**Hosea 6 The Lord Desires Loyalty Rather Than Sacrifice Fulfilled**



By Dan Maines

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## Introduction

† Hosea 6 shows Israel speaking words of repentance, but God exposes that their repentance isn't genuine. From the fulfilled perspective, this points directly to the first-century generation that outwardly claimed covenant faithfulness while rejecting Christ.

† This chapter reveals the difference between surface-level religion and true covenant faithfulness, and it shows why judgment came upon that generation exactly as Jesus said it would.

† The message is simple and direct, God isn't looking for empty rituals, He's looking for loyalty, truth, and knowledge of Him.

### **Hosea 6:1-3**

Come, let us return to the Lord.  
For He has torn us, but He will heal us;  
He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.  
He will revive us after two days;  
On the third day He will raise us up,  
So that we may live before Him.  
So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord.  
His going forth is as certain as the dawn;  
And He will come to us like the rain,  
Like the spring rain watering the earth.

† This sounds like repentance, but it's shallow and temporary, they acknowledge God's power but not their sin (Hosea 6:1-3).

† The third day language points forward to restoration through Christ, but Israel as a nation rejected that true restoration (Luke 24:46).

† Their desire to know the Lord wasn't matched by obedience, which is exactly what Jesus rebuked in that generation (Matthew 23:27-28).

### **Hosea 6:4-6**

What shall I do with you, Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, Judah?  
For your loyalty is like a morning cloud  
And like the dew which goes away early.  
Therefore I have cut them in pieces by the prophets;

I have killed them by the words of My mouth;  
And the judgments on you are like the light that goes forth.  
For I desire loyalty rather than sacrifice,  
And the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

† Their goodness disappears quickly, just like morning dew, meaning their covenant loyalty isn't real (Hosea 6:4).

† God judged them through the prophets, and ultimately through Christ's words, which brought covenant judgment on that generation (John 12:48).

† This is the key verse, God desires loyalty, not sacrifice, and knowledge of Him, not empty ritual, which Jesus directly quoted against the Pharisees (Matthew 9:13).

† This proves that first-century Israel repeated the same failure as Hosea's audience, outward religion without inward truth.

### **Hosea 6:7-10**

But like Adam they have violated the covenant;  
There they have dealt treacherously against Me.  
Gilead is a city of wrongdoers,  
Tracked with bloody footprints.  
And as raiders wait for a person,  
So a band of priests murder on the way to Shechem;  
Certainly they have committed crimes.  
In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing;  
Ephraim's prostitution is there, Israel has defiled itself.

† Israel broke covenant just like Adam, showing a pattern of rebellion from the beginning (Hosea 6:7).

† The priests themselves are corrupt, even violent, which matches the leadership in Jesus' day who killed the prophets and ultimately Christ (Matthew 23:31-35).

† The entire system is defiled, not just individuals, this is why total covenant judgment was necessary.

† This explains why the temple system was destroyed in AD 70, because it had become completely corrupt.

### **Hosea 6:11**

Also, Judah, there is a harvest appointed for you,  
When I restore the fortunes of My people.

† The harvest points to judgment, not blessing, which aligns with Jesus' language about the harvest at the end of the age (Matthew 13:39).

† This was fulfilled in the first century when judgment came upon Judah, while true restoration came through Christ for His people.

† The captivity being reversed points to the gathering of the true people of God into the new covenant.

### **Historical References**

† Josephus records the corruption of the priesthood and the violence within Jerusalem leading up to its destruction, confirming Hosea's description (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6).

† Eusebius writes about the judgment that fell on Jerusalem as a direct result of rejecting Christ, aligning with this prophetic pattern (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3).

† Tacitus also confirms the internal corruption and chaos among the Jewish leadership before the fall of Jerusalem (Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13).

## How It Applies To Us Today

† God still isn't impressed by outward religion, it's not about appearances, it's about real loyalty to Him (Hosea 6:6).

† We can't rely on temporary repentance, it must be genuine and lasting.

† Knowing God means walking in truth, not just claiming belief.

† The judgment of that generation stands as proof that God keeps His word, both in warning and in promise.

† We now live in the fulfilled reality of the new covenant, where access to God isn't through ritual, but through Christ.

## Q & A Appendix

**Q** Was Hosea 6 fulfilled in the first century?

**A** Yes, the pattern of false repentance and corrupt leadership was fully manifested in that generation, leading to the judgment of AD 70, Matthew 23:36, Matthew 24:34.

**Q** What does God mean by desiring mercy and not sacrifice?

**A** He means obedience and covenant loyalty matter more than ritual, Matthew 9:13, Hosea 6:6.

**Q** Who were the corrupt priests mentioned here?

**A** They represent the leadership of Israel, which was fully corrupt by Jesus' time, Matthew 23:2-7.

**Q** What is the harvest in verse 11?

**A** It refers to covenant judgment, fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, Matthew 13:39-42.

**Q** How do we know this applies to Jesus' generation?

**A** Jesus directly connects these same sins to His generation

and declares their judgment, Matthew 23:29-36.

## † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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### Source Index

† Hosea 6

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13

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