

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# Hosea 14

## Hosea 14

Hosea fourteen is a beautiful and blessed ending to a book that breaks one's heart to read. Hosea over and over again went after his wife Gomer, who refused to be faithful in spite of Hosea's goodness. Hosea even bought her out of harlotry only for her heart to remain unfaithful to Him. Gomer's unfaithfulness and Hosea's faithfulness is a picture of God's love and mercy toward us even though we disappoint Him over and over again through unfaithfulness and lack of gratitude. Chapter fourteen opens with God calling sinful Israel to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing. If Israel would only do that God promises this,

***"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall grow like the lily and lengthen his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread; his beauty shall be like an olive tree, and his fragrance like Lebanon. Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall be revived like grain and grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon."***  
(vv.4-7)

God said, He would be ***"as dew to Israel."*** People who grown up in the southern United States have often heard the phrase, *"The dew fell heavy last night"* referring to the wetness of a spring or summer night and morning. The reality is that dew does not fall, it forms. Dew forms when the conditions get right. The dew is God's way of watering a parched or dry place. It is not rain as such, but it is moisture. Many times, the dew is what waters the grass and plants, but it is also a source of water to the animals of the area when it forms. Many who have grown up in areas where there are both high and low elevations, mountains and valleys, will give witness that dew does not form the heaviest on the heights of the mountain and hilltops, but rather in the valleys and low places. So, it is with life. God often God will refresh us in the valleys of our lives, not on the mountaintops. The great gospel song writer Dottie Rambo wrote a song entitled, ***"In the valley He restoreth my soul."***

### Prayer and Action Steps

*If you are in a valley, ask God to restore your soul. He will "be as dew to you" and refresh you in the valley.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

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