

Intercede for Ephraim and Judah

After recently reading the Prophet Hosea I was struck by an unexpected reality. Even though God is revealing a fresh identity to his people we are corporately still under some measure of judgment. Ephraim is still a wanderer among the nations and Judah still trusts in his own strength. Yahweh's promises to each house will come to fullness but the time is not yet.

What then can we do now to participate in his purpose?

Hosea 14:1-3 gives us a part of the answer;

v -1 " O Israel return to Yahweh your God. For you have stumbled because of your iniquity."

We are on the journey of return to the true God. The Lord continues to encourage us. Keep coming your not here yet. Your iniquity causes you to stumble, but get up and keep coming.

v-2 "Take words with you and return to the Lord, say to Him, Take away all iniquity, Receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips."

We can take words to the Lord. This is intercession. We need to say to him what he tells us to say to him. We can do this today. This gets us in the flow of the journey.

v-3 "Assyria shall not save us, we will not ride on horses, nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, You are our Gods. For in You the fatherless finds mercy."

We will not trust any power but you Lord. We will not ride high and low looking for relief from our condition but will repent from worshiping the works produced not by you, but by our hands. We forsake the idolatry of our fathers and rest in your mercy. Because the true God is good and his mercy endures forever.

v-8 "Ephraim shall say, What have I to do anymore with idols?"

The problem with Ephraim has always been a weakness to fall away from the true God and worship false Gods. This persists today as we set up false images of him in our hearts and minds and worship that image as Lord. We must be careful that the one we call Lord is not Baal, but Yahweh.

Takes these words today and say thee to the Lord. As we intercede our journey will continue and all the good Yahweh desires to do for his people will surely come to pass.