LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 02 Dec 2012 ......... Hosea 1:1-3:5........ Exposing a Broken Relationship
2) 09 Dec ............... Hosea 4:1-7:16:.... Rebuiking Destructive Behavior
3) 16 Dec ................ Hosea 8:1-10:15 ........ Deciding on Discipline
4) 23 Dec .............. Matthew 1:18-2:18 ....... Seeking the Savior
5) 30 Dec .......... Hosea 11:1-12:14 ........ Remembering Compassion

INTRODUCTION
- We learn about God’s enduring compassion toward sinners. He always leaves a door open as long as possible with the expectation people will repent and seek Him whole-heartedly

PASSAGE

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| Hosea 11:1-7 | Israel Failed to Count Its Blessings  
  - v1b. God called His son out of Egypt (Israel in history, Jesus in prophecy) .................. Matthew 2:15  
  - v1a-2. God loved Israel in its early days before Israel chose to chase after false gods of pleasure  
  - v3-4. Israel failed to see God’s hand on their country. [Is America in the same boat as Israel where we have been blessed by God but we fail to acknowledge Him?]  
  - v5-6. A special fate – one tailored for the situation, is chosen for Israel. Assyria, a cruel, conquering nation, will crush, nearly annihilate, and disperse Israel  
  - v7. God’s preachers throughout the land cry out for the nation to return to God, but their cries are ignored |
| Hosea 11:6 | The Message (an amplified version of the English Bible) provides this enlightening rendition of verse 6:  
  “That’s why his cities are unsafe—the murder rate skyrockets and every plan to improve things falls to pieces.” |
| Hosea 11:8-12 | God Prefers to Bless and Not Curse  
  - vv8-9. God makes a case not to totally destroy Israel  
  - vv10-11. God promises to restore Israel one day  
  - v12. BUT, at this time in history both Israel and Judah were non-repentant, so they could expect judgment |
| Hosea 12:1-7 | We must Wait for God – and Not Lose Faith  
  - v1. “Oil is exported to Egypt” indicates Israel’s wealth and resources were captured and taken away  
  - The tribe of Asher is noted as being blessed with wealth (Gen 49:20) and sitting on oil (Deut 33:24)  
  - Note: The oil & gas pockets in the Middle East are forecasted to run out mid-century. BUT in recent months, as reported in the “American Thinker” massive energy resources were discovered within Israeli territory, which will soon turn geopolitical issues in that region upside down  
  - Recall the kings of the east (possibly China or oil-starved middle-eastern countries will soon be prepared to march on Israel (for what purpose except to capture much needed resources). Rev 16:12  
  - vv2-6. God makes another judicial case, this time by bringing Judah (Israel’s southern cousin) into focus  
  - God recalls Judah’s (and Israel’s) humble beginning and calls for their humble return – But do they?  
  - The Secret to Success. “Observe kindness and justice, and wait continually on God” .......... HOW? |

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS
- As another year passes away and a new year begins, we should heed God’s command and wait on Him continually – through tough times and easy times, times of persecution and times of peace

NEXT WEEK: Hosea 13-14. When riches & comfort increase man has a tendency to forget God. How do we prepare for good times & bad?

SS-Hosea-11-12