

## **Only I Can Save You**

Hosea 11:12 – 14:9

by Don Falkos

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The prophet Hosea carried the Lord's message to the northern kingdom Ephraim:

You are attempting to make an alliance with Assyria and with Egypt rather than placing your faith in me. You have carried on the deceitful ways of your ancestor Jacob. Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother. As an adult, he wrestled with me and demanded a blessing. Turn away from your idols. Act with love and justice, and always depend on the Lord your God who rescued you from slavery in Egypt.

I took care of you in the wilderness, provided for all your needs. But then you became arrogant, claiming success by your own hand. You have worshiped Baal and made idols of silver.

I gave you kings, as you demanded of me. Then I took them away. But no matter. They would not be able to save you. You are doomed. An invading army from the east will plunder you and carry you away.

Come back to me and ask forgiveness for your sins. Assyria cannot save you. Your military forces cannot save you. The idols you worship cannot save you. Only I can save you.

Come back to me and I will show you unfailing love. You, O Ephraim, will grow strong and beautiful. Under my care, you will flourish. All that you need I will provide.

Listen to me, and live your life by following what I say.