



- God is love.



- The world doesn't know what love is.
  - World is the way of thinking, and acting, that is opposed to God (taught by Satan and society).
  - Satan deceives... twists what God has given that is good into something evil, different.
  - Just like Eve: what is wrong is turned into something powerful, or wise, good, or delightful or desirable.



- The world has utterly changed what love is.
  - Romance and emotion and feelings
  - hearts and flowers and diamonds
  - Sex
  - Mushy, weak, indulgent
- The love of the world is often demonstrated to those who are their friends, family.
  - Nice to those who are nice to them.



- So it's not a surprise that the world misunderstands what "God is love" means.
- The S&P's made this mistake also, interpreting God's love by their own ideas and interpretations.
- But many "Bible believers" also struggle with this.
  - They create an artificial divide between the "God of the Old Testament", who is jealous and vengeful.
  - And the "God of the New Testament", who is love.

**Exceeding Righteousness**

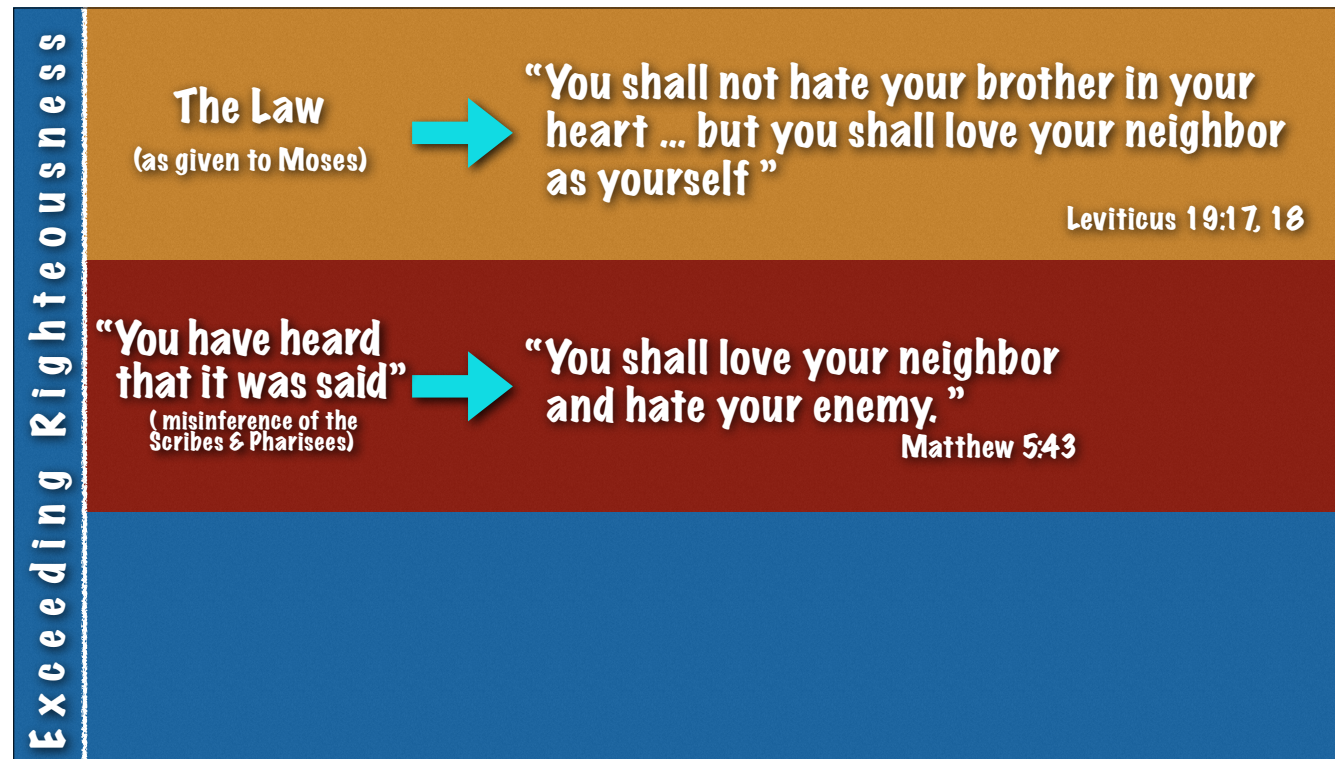
**The Law**  
(as given to Moses)

→ **"You shall not hate your brother in your heart ... but you shall love your neighbor as yourself"**

Leviticus 19:17, 18

- Leviticus 19:17-18: "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."
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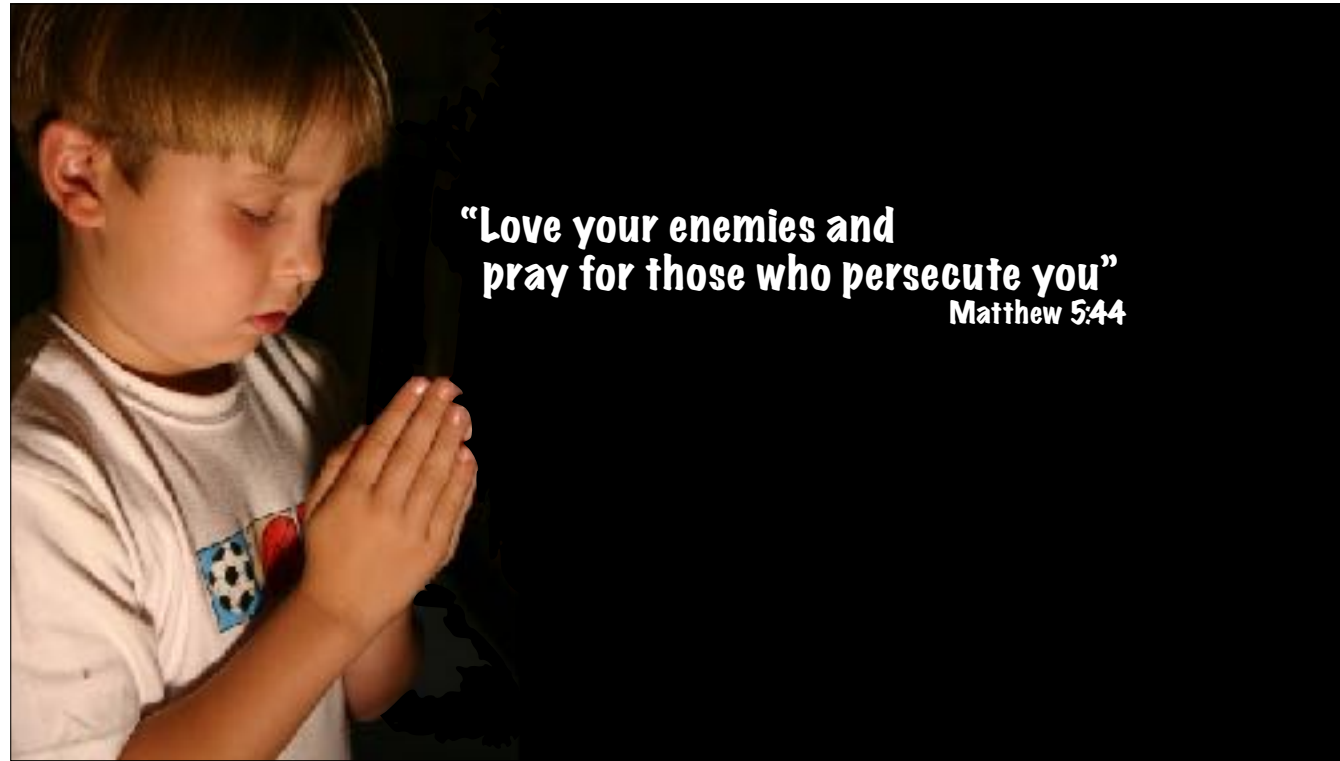




- Matthew 5:43: "You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
- Knowing God and Bible, most of us struggle with how the Israelites ever came to this conclusion.
- When did God ever approve of hate?
- Attitudes when conquering Canaan

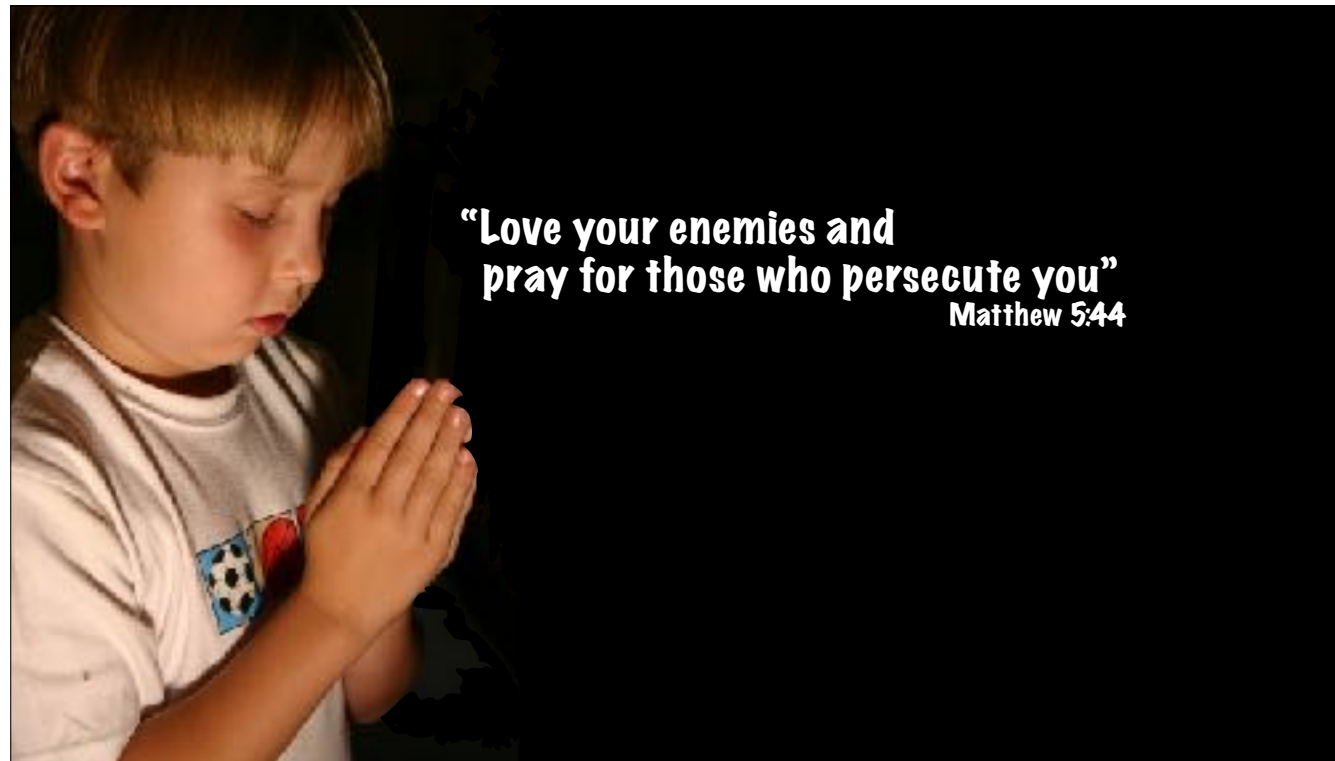


- Matthew 5:44-47 (ESV) 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

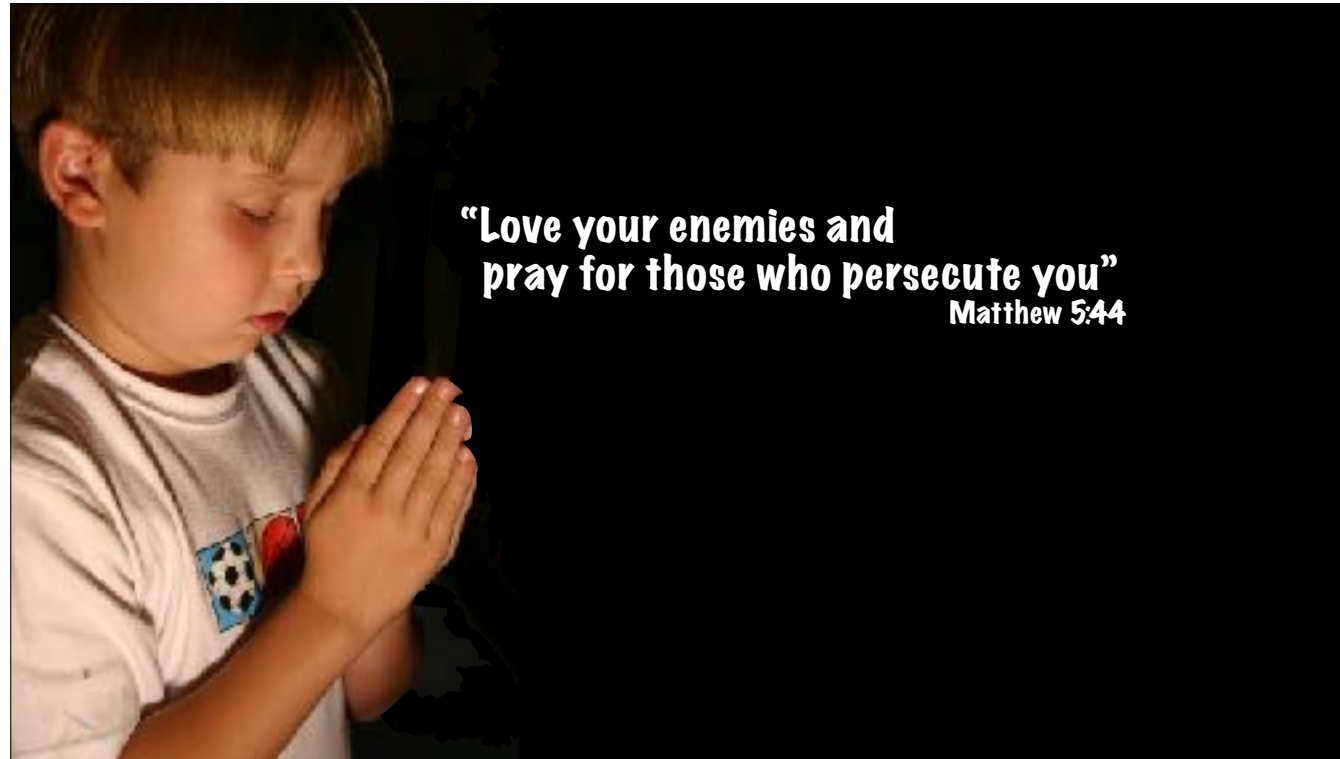


- We must be careful that we don't love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us just because we have to.
-





- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV) 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



- Otherwise, we are as blind and self-deceived as the Scribes and Pharisees
- What is our Father trying to teach us about himself, and what he desires us to be?

# God is love.

- God is love.
  - And he wants us to be love too.
- But love, real love, is not easy. It's difficult. It's complicated. It's often messy.
  - Must be careful about love...
- God's love is not easy.
- Hosea

# God is love.

- That means that EVERYTHING that God does is done with love.
  - Destroying wicked world with flood?
    - Wrath! Yes.
    - Love?
  - Decimating Sodom and Gomorrah?
    - Wrath! Yes.
    - Love?

# God is love.

## CONDEMNATION & DESTRUCTION

- False prophets and false teacher: 2 Peter 2:3-10
  - vs. 3: condemnation is not idle; destruction is not asleep

# God is love.

## CONDEMNATION & DESTRUCTION

**Angels**



**chains  
gloomy darkness  
the judgment**

- 2 Peter 2:4: For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;



# God is love.

## CONDEMNATION & DESTRUCTION

**Angels**



**chains  
gloomy darkness  
the judgment**

**Ancient World**






**not spared  
flood on the ungodly**

- 2 Peter 2:5: if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

# God is love.



## CONDEMNATION & DESTRUCTION

<h3>Angels</h3>  <p><b>chains</b> <b>gloomy darkness</b> <b>the judgment</b></p>	<h3>Ancient World</h3>  <p><b>not spared</b> <b>flood on the ungodly</b></p>	<h3>Sodom &amp; Gomorrah</h3>  <p><b>condemned to extinction</b> <b>what happens to the ungodly</b></p>
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- 2 Peter 2:6-9 (ESV) 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

# God is love.

## CONDEMNATION & DESTRUCTION

<p><b>Angels</b></p>  <p><b>chains</b> <b>gloomy darkness</b> <b>the judgment</b></p>	<p><b>Ancient World</b></p>  <p><b>not spared</b> <b>flood on the ungodly</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Noah</b> <b>preserved</b></p>	
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God is love.		
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# God is love.

## CONDEMNATION & DESTRUCTION

Angels	Ancient World	Sodom & Gomorrah
 <p>chains gloomy darkness the judgment</p>	 <p>not spared flood on the ungodly</p>	 <p>condemned to extinction what happens to the ungodly</p>
<p><b>the Lord knows how to keep the unrighteous under punishment</b></p>		
<p><b>the Lord knows how to rescue the godly</b></p>		
	<p>Noah preserved</p>	<p>Lot rescued</p>

- 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,
- God's love must not be over simplified, as we sometimes want to do.
  - Love requires making hard choices in difficult circumstances.
  - Love requires doing the right things for the right reasons

# God is love.

- God's love
  - **warns** us of the consequences of unrighteousness
  - **teaches** us to fear God
  - provides **hope** in spite of our failures
  - **rescues** the godly





- Hosea was used by God as a metaphor for his relationship with his people, the northern tribes of Israel.
- Hosea is instructed to marry a woman who is a prostitute and they have three children.
- However, his wife is unfaithful to him, and returns to her former lifestyle.



- God portrays himself as a husband forsaken by his bride.
- Israel's unfaithfulness was demonstrated repeatedly in their constant following of the gods/idols of the nations.
  - "go to my lovers" (1.5)
  - "pursue lovers" (1.7)



- And their refusal to acknowledge all that Jehovah had done for her.
  - Heart false
  - Rebels

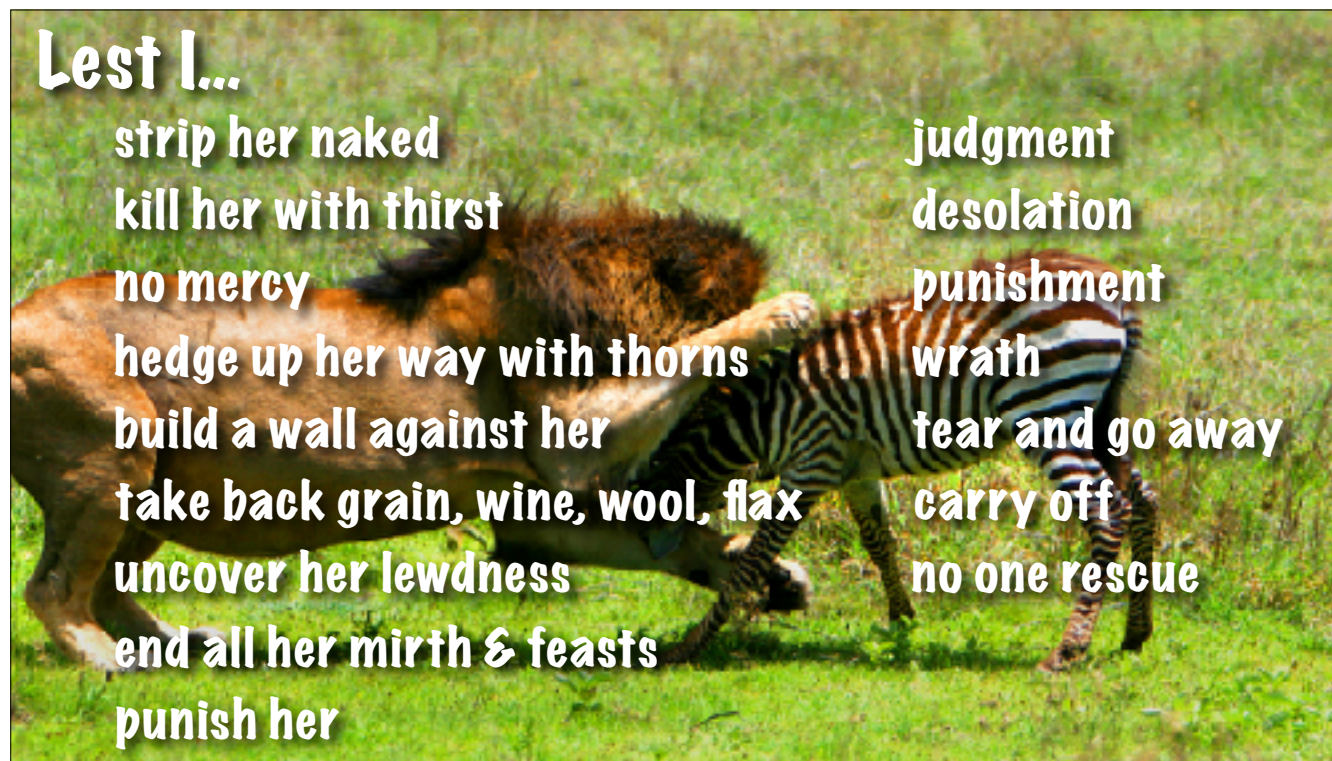


- At one point, Jehovah poignantly asks
  - “What shall I do with you?” (6.4)
- Do you see and understand God’s dilemma?





- Lest I...
- 2:3: strip her naked
- 2:3: kill her with thirst
- 2:4: I will have no mercy
- 2:6: hedge up her way with thorns
- 2:6: build wall against her
- 2:9: take back grain, wine, wool, flax
- 2:10: uncover her lewdness
- 2:11: end all her mirth, feasts
- 2:13: punish her



- 5:1: judgment
- 5:9: become desolation; day of punishment
- 5:10: pour out my wrath
- 5:14: Like a lion
  - tear and go away
  - carry off
  - no one rescue





- 5:15: UNTIL (in their distress)
  - Acknowledge guilt
  - Seek my face
  - Earnestly seek me

How is God expressing and demonstrating his love for Israel.

He's not just mad and not just punishing.



**Hosea 2:14-15**

- Hosea 2:14-15 (ESV) 14 “Therefore, behold, I will **allure** her, and bring her into the wilderness, and **speak tenderly** to her. 15 And there I will **give** her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of **hope**. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.



- Allure (to be open, to entice) draw toward (?)
- Speak tenderly: speak to heart
- Give
- Hope (out of trouble (Anchor))





- Hosea 11:1-4 (ESV) 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. 3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. 4 I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.
- Hosea 11:8-9: How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.
-



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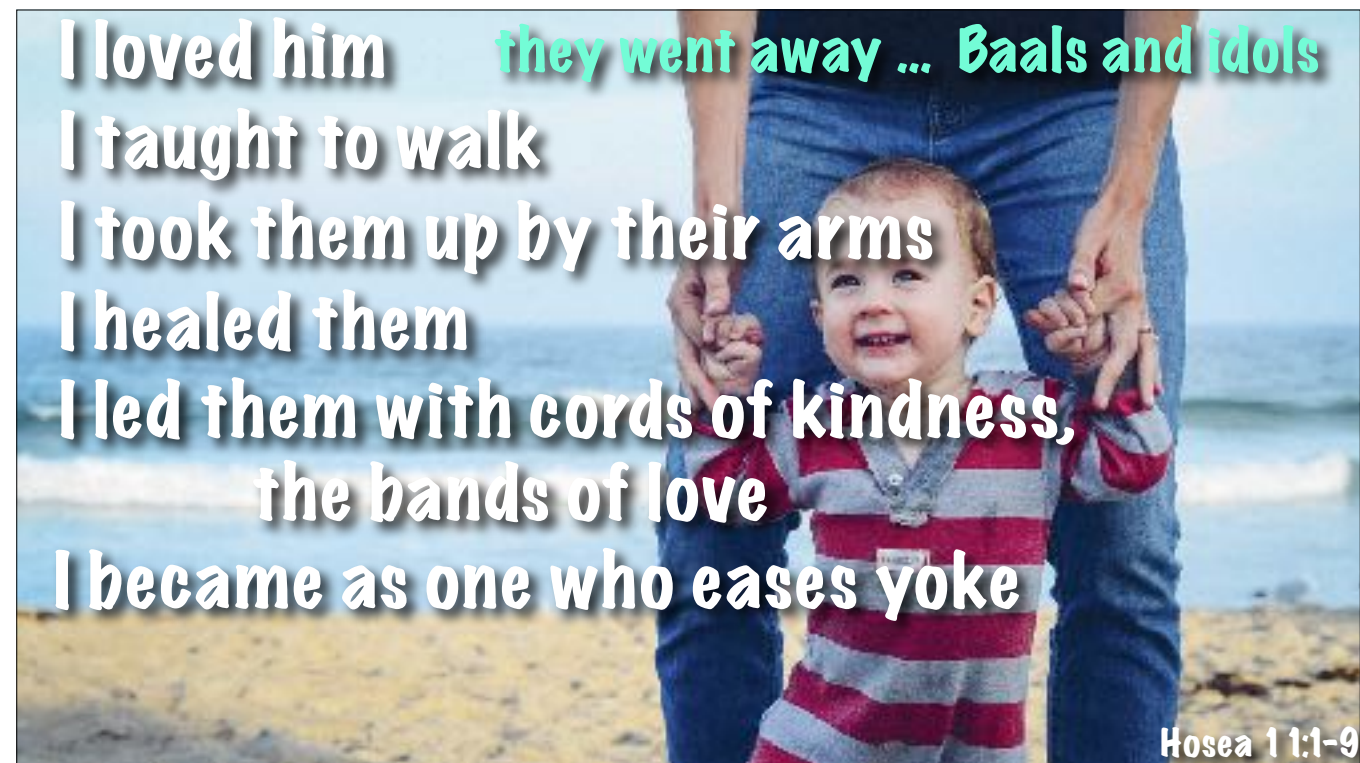


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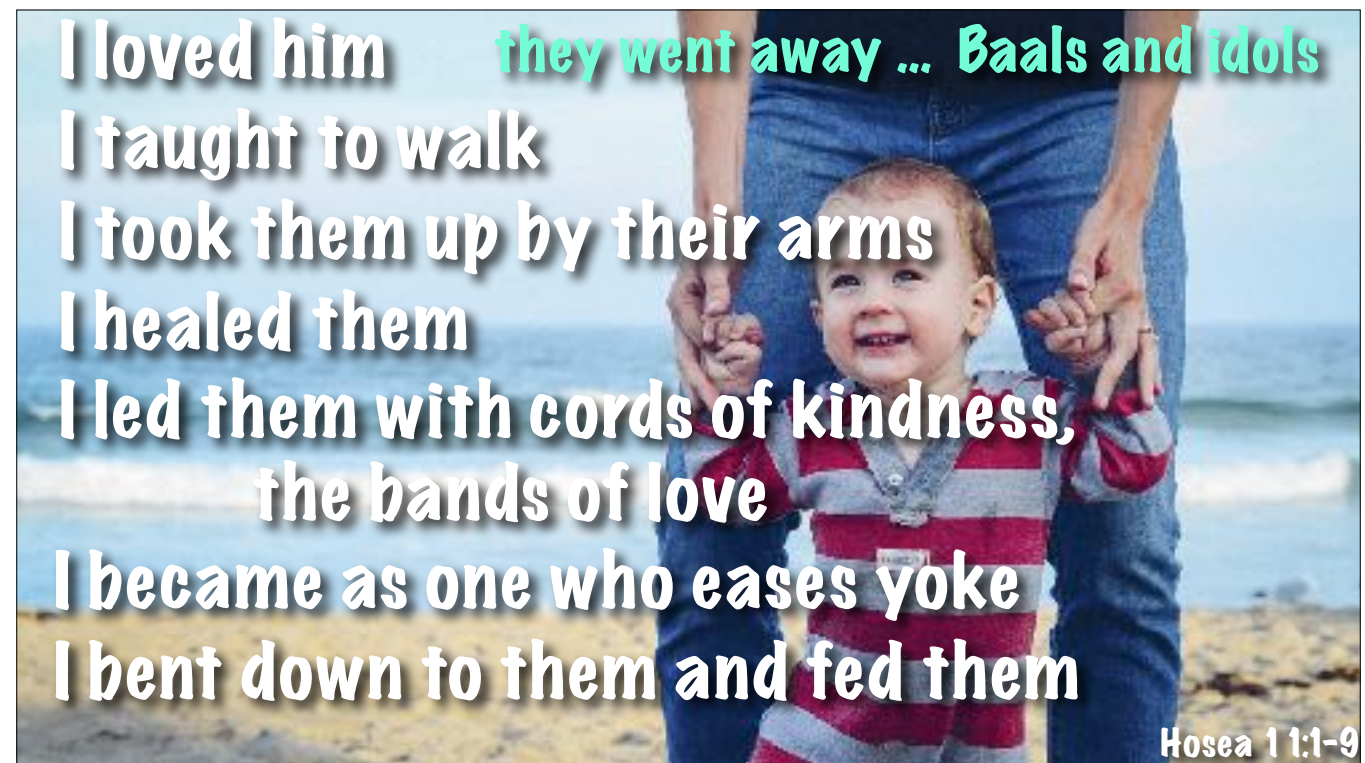


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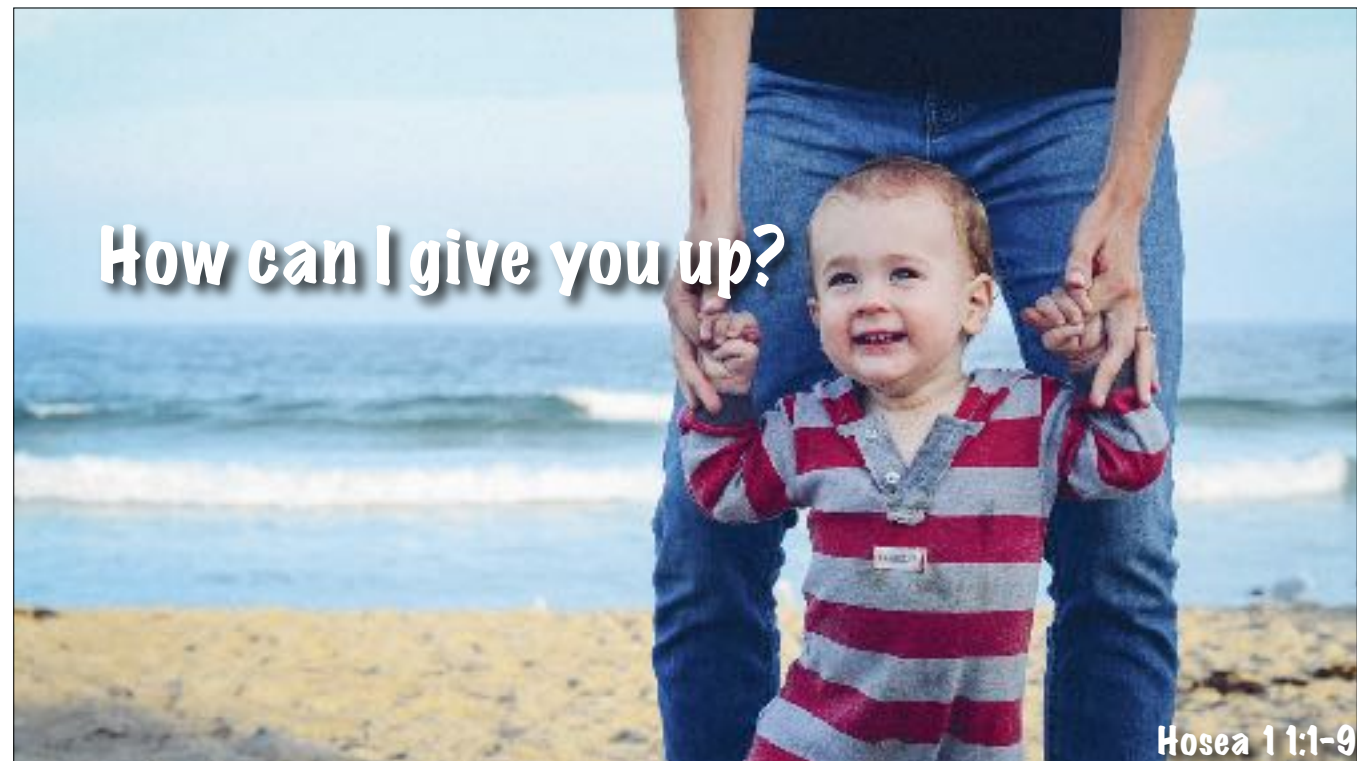


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# God is love.

- Love Doesn't give up on those who are heartless, rebellious, immoral, and unfaithful.
- Love does good to all.
- Love excels beyond the expectations and actions of men.
- Love strives to restore broken relationships.
- Love refrains from wrath and anger, only uses them to discipline those who have rebelled, striving to help them return

# God is love.

- How do I love like He loves?
  - Friends or enemies
  - Do what is right... do good.
  - Help them to overcome sin.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14





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## God Is Love! part 2

Matthew 5:43-47

Synopsis: The last example of righteousness that exceeds the Scribes and the Pharisees is that of love. In this lesson, we'll examine more deeply what it means that God is love using the example of Hosea.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**