

Date: 3 December 2023

Speaker: Pastor Clement Chew

Topic: [The Book of Hosea: When God Does Not Punish](#)

Text: [Hosea 4:12-19](#)

1. How can a loving God punish? God does not punish when we walk in righteousness. He is ready to bless. Yet, there will be punishment when we sin against Him, the holy God. In this passage, the children of Israel had been sinning against the Lord for a long time (v12-14).

2. The reason for no punishment. God declared He would not punish their daughters. The men had failed the women because they failed to teach God's Word rightly. They will bear the consequences of their sin (v14). There is no need for the Lord to chastise them further- known as judicial abandonment (see Romans 1).

3. The prophet turns to the Southern Kingdom. They were warned not to be influenced by the Northern Kingdom (*Gilgal* and *Bethaven*). God wants Judah to learn from Ephraim's example. Chastisement is an expression of God's love for His people. Despise not the chastisement from God.

God is ready to forgive if we return to Him.