

Hosea 14:4-9

I will bring my people back to me.

I will love them with all my heart;
no longer am I angry with them.

⁵ I will be to the people of Israel
like rain in a dry land.

They will blossom like flowers;
they will be firmly rooted
like the trees of Lebanon.

⁶ They will be alive with new growth,
and beautiful like olive trees.

They will be fragrant
like the cedars of Lebanon.

⁷ Once again they will live under my protection.

They will grow crops of grain
and be fruitful like a vineyard.

They will be as famous as the wine of Lebanon.

⁸ The people of Israel^[a] will have nothing more to do with idols;
I will answer their prayers and take care of them.

Like an evergreen tree I will shelter them;

I am the source of all their blessings.”

Hebrews 13:7-16

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food,^[a] which have not benefited those who observe them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent^[b] have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. ¹³ Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.