

faithful to the unfaithful

Our Three Questions

1. What does the text say?

Authorial intent to the intended audience.

2. What does the text mean?

The timeless theological truth.

3. How does this apply today?

What we ought to do with/because of this truth.

¹ Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors. ² Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them. ³ They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt,

and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria. ⁴ They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners' bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the LORD.

⁵ What will you do on the day of the appointed festival, and on the day of the feast of the LORD? 6 For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.

⁷ The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred. 8 The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

⁹ They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins. 10 Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame,

and became detestable like the thing they loved. 11 Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird—no birth, no pregnancy, no conception! 12 Even if they bring up children, I will bereave them till none is left. Woe to them when I depart from them! 13 Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow; but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter.

14 Give them, O Lord—what will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts. 15 Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to hate them. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels. 16 Ephraim is stricken; their root is dried up;

they shall bear no fruit. Even though they give birth, I will put their beloved children to death. 17 My God will reject them because they have not listened to him; they shall be wanderers among the nations.

10:1 Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars. ² Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.

³ For now they will say: "We have no king, for we do not fear the LORD; and a king—what could he do for us?" 4 They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field. 5 The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Bethaven.

Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous priests—those who rejoiced over it and over its glory—for it has departed from them. ⁶ The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria as tribute to the great king. Ephraim shall be put to shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol. ⁷ Samaria's king shall perish like a twig on the face of the waters.

- ⁸ The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, "Cover us," and to the hills, "Fall on us."
- ⁹ From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah?

¹⁰ When I please, I will discipline them, and nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity. 11 Ephraim was a trained calf that loved to thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will put Ephraim to the yoke; Judah must plow; Jacob must harrow for himself.

12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors,

14 therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed, as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle; mothers were dashed in pieces with their children. 15 Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great evil. At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

Preview

- 9:1 & 10:12 Two exhortations
- 9:1b-9:9 Prostitution w/out Repentance
 - Wrath is coming Exile
- 9:10-14 A promising start Idolatry
 - Wrath is coming Barrenness (legacy)
- 10:1-10 Israel's fruitfulness Selfish
 - Wrath is coming War & Exile (poverty)
- 10:11-15 Israel's strength Trusted army
 - Wrath is coming War & Exile (broken strength)

Preview

Another look at the exhortations

It is within God's character be wrathful

Worship (responding to God rightly) is orderly

Application

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for you have played the whore, forsaking your God.
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on all threshing floors.

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yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways,
and hatred in the house of his God.

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he will remember their iniquity;
he will purish their rips.

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Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season,

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you have **eaten the fruit** of lies.

Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors,

14 therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people,

because of your great evil. At dawn the king of Israel

Hosea 9:1 & 10:12

9:1 Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples

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10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hosea 9:1b - 9

Indictment:

9:1b – Prostitution "on all threshing floors."

9:7b-9 - Mistreatment of the prophets

Consequence:

Loss of production, land that produces, joy that comes with eating, bondage

Hosea 9:10-17

9:10a - Delightful potential - Fathers

Indictment:

9:10b - Then ... Baal-peor

Consequence:

9:11-17 - Loss of children (legacy/pride)

Hosea 10:1-10

10:1a - Israel produced beautifully

Indictment:

10:1b-5 & 9a – self-indulgent/sufficient, trusting their wealth and idols (Gibeah)

Consequence:

10:6-8 & 9b-10 – Loss of comfort, idols, and autonomy (destroyed like Gibeah)

Hosea 10:11-15

10:11a – Israel's potential strength

Indictment:

10:13 – Trusted in their own strength, \rightarrow iniquity, injustice, lies

Consequence:

10:11b, 14-15 – Forced labor & failed strength in battle

Review

Stop the partying and seek the Lord

Forefathers – Judges – Kings

Baal-peor – Gibeah – Present

Grapes – Vines – Calves

Wrath is coming, so repent

What do we learn?

God acts within His character

God is holy and punishes sin (wrath)

What do we learn?

Worship (responding to God) is orderly.

Stop exalting seek the Lord relationally

What do we learn?

- Amos 5:18-24 (Praise songs)
- Isaiah 58 (Fasting)
- Malachi 1:6-14 (sacrifices)
- Matthew 5:23-24 (Gifts)
- 1 Peter 3:7 (prayers)

Application

Heart check: How do we view God? Is God truly Holy and revered?

Don't play religion games, but enter into real relationship. Let that inform orderly worship.

Questions

Was there anything from the text that jumped out at you? If so, what was it and why did it stand out for you?

How do you feel about the wrath of God. Is it a foreign topic? Does it make you uncomfortable? Does it make you question God's goodness?

How do you feel about the mercy and forgiveness of God? Is it a foreign topic? Does it make you uncomfortable. Does it make you question God's goodness?

Read Hosea 9:14. This is an example of an imprecatory prayer (one that calls on God to punish sin). How do you feel about that? Have you ever desired justice the way Hosea desires it here?

In the text, Hosea calls on the people to stop their "exalting" or proud celebrating and to return to the Lord in steadfast love. This brings up the notion of orderly worship. When you think about your own relationship with God, what is the next best thing for you to do in that relationship? Do you ever get things out of order? If so, in what way? What should change?