

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 8:1-14

- Hosea has just described Israel as a people that is deceived concerning where they're headed nationally, and totally corrupted as to who they are spiritually. When you put these two things together that nation is headed for trouble, and that is exactly what is being shared in chapters 7-8. At the end of chapter 7 Hosea calls Israel a silly bird for running to Egypt and Assyria for help instead of The Lord, two nations that only want to exploit Israel's weakness and not heal them.
- One had already enslaved Israel in the past, while the other is looking to enslave them in the present, yet because of their sin they have no discernment concerning who has their best interest at heart, and who intends evil toward them. So that leads them to leaning on their own understanding which is what Hosea describes in Ch 8.

V1-14

- **V1** the chapter begins with sounding the alarm as disaster is at hand, for the Assyrians (their national false god was Ashur, a winged archer, and the Eagle) are now identified as the nation that is coming to devour the ten Northern tribes of Israel. We not only see who is coming were also told why their coming, because Israel has transgressed against God's Law and broken His Covenant.
- In **Jer 30:22, Ezek 36:28**, God said that "**He will be Israel's God and they shall be His people**" it's a recurring declaration found in the scriptures, and yet Israel consistently disobeyed God and broke their Covenant with Him bringing catastrophe upon themselves. But its not only Israel, its man, as Adam did the same thing in the garden, which is why we're in this sinful state in the first place.
- **V2-3** when Assyria invades and starts to plunder and burn their cities and homes then they will cry out to God, saying that they "**know Him**" but its not in sincerity. Jesus said people will do the same thing during judgment in **Math 7:21-23**- but verbal acknowledgement of God as the basis for proof of personal relationship with God is never what God is looking for, he wants sincerity of heart.

- Jesus said in Mathew that “**He never knew them**” He doesn’t deny what they did in His name, He simply denied knowing them personally. God prioritizes sincere intention and inner attitudes over outward expressions > **Amos 5:21-23**- God is looking for justice and righteousness in our hearts, before He accepts the deeds of our hands and the words coming forth out of our mouths, always remember that.
- **V4-6** here are three things a nation will do who have rejected the teachings of scripture in order to instill the philosophies of man, and we will read what the consequences look like for such actions > **1.** They set up Kings but not by God- today we see Kings, Presidents, Emperors, Prime Ministers, of countries who don’t follow or live by God’s word, only by man’ philosophies and ideals.
- **2.** They set up rulers to lead them- government officials who will go along with what the King, President, Emperor or Prime minister wants. You see that with our government, Parliament in England, its like this throughout the world. Nations have adopted this model as their ruling idea for success and prosperity, it has nothing to do with The Lord as they have cast Him aside, and yet still expect to be blessed.
- **3.** They make idols from their wealth- out of their abundance they make images of themselves, things that they relate to, understand, abide by, but God rejects. Samaria was their capital, and although they all knew the story when Aaron and the people made a golden calf to worship and go back to Egypt, that God rejected and caused the ground to open up and swallowed up 3,000 and a plague killed another 20,000, and yet Jeroboam put a calf for worship in Bethel and Dan > **1Kings 12:28-31**
- **V7** look at our educational system that teaches us as fact that we evolved from animals, not made in the image of a Loving God, but then we complain when people act like animals hurting and killing one another without any remorse. God says even the good that Israel would produce will eventually be swallowed back up because of their sin, and it’s like that for us today, even when good happens its short lived because we don’t repent but go right back to the same sinful ways as before.
- **V8-10** for their sin God has given them over to unbelievers, since that is where they have put their trust in, and those people will have no mercy upon them. Today because people trust in their fleshly ways when in trouble what do they do? They run to flesh for help, and that which they trusted in will eventually be what enslaves them. Think about it instead of the scriptures, what do people run to for help, for relief, psychiatry, therapy, drugs, relationships, everything except The Lord.

- **V11-13** Israel was the first to receive the Word of God, but because of sin, and the many false altars, idols, and idolatry, the Word of God has become a strange thing. Ironically they still held the feasts, and religious activity, but the relationship and fellowship with God was gone, so their feasts was a waste of time.
- If you want proof that God wrote this Word look no further than **V12 “I have written for him the great things of My law”** this is God’s Word, don’t ever forget that. God calls it “great things” the bible speaks of the greatest and most important things of both life and eternity, but Israel has not considered it a “**strange thing**”. I have seen this in people’s lives, where once the word was the final authority and now it is not.
- **V14** when God’s people forget their Maker there is no refuge, although they’ve built temples it was not unto The Lord, therefore judgment is upon them. The northern Kingdom practiced outright idolatry, Judah’s sin was a little more subtle, they trusted in their fortified cities, its military might, but those things will be of no help, because only The Lord can preserve His people, not any of our man made devices.
- In closing I want to say I’m so glad that the Covenant God has made with the Church is not based upon our commitment in keeping it, but upon Jesus faithfulness. Israel broke The Law because it couldn’t keep the Law, we look to Jesus for our Righteousness, not works. Lastly there are three questions we should ask ourselves after reading these two chapters to make sure our hearts are in the right place.
- 1. Is The Word of God still near and dear to you?
- 2. Does it hold the final authority in your life as it should?
- 3. Do you base your choices upon what it says?