

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 10:1-15

- Israel in scripture is regularly used in a metaphor that refers to them as a vine that's been planted by God in the land of Canaan, and is expected to produce good fruit > **Ps 80:8-10, Jer 2:21, Is 5:1-7**, the vine symbolizes Israel God's chosen people, whom He cultivated, protected, nourished, and then expected them to bear righteous fruit but instead yielded wild grapes, barren branches, of injustice, unrighteousness, and idolatry. Hosea going to keep with this vine metaphor in describing Israel's behavior.

V1-15

- **V1-2** here is a warning concerning the thought that prosperity is the answer to man's problems, as these two verses tell us that the more prosperous Israel became the more they turned away from The Lord. For it says that after God blessed Israel with material abundance they then spent it on themselves and their own idolatrous desires > (he brings forth fruit for himself, and increased his false altars).
- This caused their hearts to become divided, and God to hold them accountable for what they were doing. When God blesses us we then become even more responsible than ever to use it wisely, and as we see in these two verses because Israel used God's bounty or material resources in wicked ways, He will now break down their altars to pagan gods, and ruin their sacred pillars made unto idols.
- God is a generous God, Who blesses man above all of creation, but because He also is a Just God, He will hold us accountable for how we use His blessings. Israel like most people enjoyed the blessings of God, but they used those blessings in ungodly ways, spending it on their own gratifications, and not to glorify The God Who gifted it to them > **Rom 1:21-23**- man knew that it was God Who blessed them, but they did not glorify God, and were unthankful for His blessings, and look at the results.
- Their thoughts became empty, and their foolish hearts were darkened, yet they still professed to themselves that they were wise, but in actuality they were fools. The proof of their foolishness is the idolatry that followed, changing The Glory of The incorruptible God, into images made like corruptible man, birds, animals, insects, creatures, just like Paul said in Romans one, and sadly its still going on today.

- **V3-4** once you remove God you remove order, because of sin they didn't respect authority, as the majority of the kings of the Northern Kingdom were assassinated. Also without order you cannot hold anyone accountable as the people were making false oaths and lying about agreements and contracts signed, therefore lawsuits were springing up like poisonous weeds- hemlock, choking, sound familiar.
- **V5-8** instead of peace the people were experiencing fear why? Bethel- the house of God, had become Beth Aven- House of wickedness. When Israel adopted that molten calf as its national symbol of worship they were saying to God they no longer needed His protection or provision, that they could live without Him. So God left them to themselves and once the enemy comes, conquers and leaves, he'll take with him their false god as a trophy for invading their land and enslaving the people.
- **V9-11** Gibeah was already mentioned earlier in chapter 9:9 which happened during the days of Judges Chapters 19-21, when Israel raped and murdered the Levites concubine and he cut her body in pieces and sent them to the other tribes as a witness. It sparked a civil war, and sinful decisions, as it almost eradicated a whole tribe from Israel the tribe of Benjamin because of their sin and foolishness.
- Hosea says as bad as that was what they've done here is worst why? As it should have learned from its past mistakes, it's not like Israel hadn't rebelled against God and His Word before, that is what Hosea is reminding them of, Gibeah happened remember, and the result was horrifying, and yet you are repeating the sin. Using farm animals Hosea says Israel was reserved for the light work of treading grain, but now because of sin it will be put under the more strenuous yoke of captivity.
- **V12 Prov 13:15-** says "**the way of the sinner is hard**" in saying this we see some hope, where? By saying the way of the sinner is hard this tells us that there is another way, one which is easier, so why choose the hard way, when we can choose an easier path! Israel has sown the seed of in and they will soon reap the judgment from God, but now if they would sow righteousness they will reap mercy at the next harvest. We all sow into our lives, what seeds we sow determines what crop we get.
- God tells Israel to break up the fallow ground, in planting sometimes the ground becomes hard, so hard that you need an instrument that keeps hammering away at the ground breaking it up into small pieces in order to plant the seeds for a crop.

- Israel's heart had become so hardened that it needs to be broken up into small pieces in order to heal, so that good seeds could be planted within them in order for them to seek The Lord. That was the only way true righteousness was going to come their way, and even today their hearts are still hardened, and it won't soften until Jesus comes and rains righteousness upon them, just as this verse says.
- **V13-15** the essence of all sin is "**because you trusted in your own way**" so whatever they sowed wickedness caused them to reap iniquity, and the fruit of lies. Now chaos ensues, theft, robbery, murder, tragedy that you bought upon yourselves. Everything that they had put their hope and trust in God destroys > fortresses, wealth, idols, ungodly kings, all taken away and destroyed.
- At the beginning of the chapter two reasons are given for causing a fruitless life > **1. Living for self, 2. A divided heart.** You know we also are a prosperous nation but we bring forth little fruit to God. The main reasons are we live for self gratification and we have divided hearts when it comes to serving God.
- Many will say I want to serve God, but they also want to indulge self, part want to be righteous, the other part wants to live after the flesh > **Ps 86:11**- David said unite my heart, meaning give me a singleness of heart to serve You.