

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 13:1-16

- Chapter 12 God compared The Northern Kingdom to Jacob before his surrender, and how he fought with God, wrestled against His will for his life, instead of submitting to it, and in the end it left him severely crippled as a reminder to always bend our will to God's way. Now the Ten tribes of Israel who have chosen to do things their way are headed down the path of forced submission, in the form of the Assyrians coming to enslave, uproot, humiliate, and tear down all that is sacred to them.
- Despite God's warnings in sending prophets to speak to the children of Israel they simply responded with a carefree attitude, unwilling to believe that God would ever allow another nation to take their land from them. Now they are about to experience what **Hos 8:7** meant when he said > **“they’ve sown to the wind, now they’ll reap the whirlwind”**, a tornado, a hurricane of their own doing is heading their way.

V1-16

- **V1-3** the tribe of Ephraim was the largest most influential of the Northern Kingdom, but sadly they used their influence not to lead others into a close relationship with God, but into an idolatrous Covenant with idols away from God. So when God told Israel to seek Him with a **whole heart**, they responded with a **divided heart**, when encouraged to **plant righteousness** within their society they **sowed wickedness**, and instead of a **tenderness of heart** it led to a **hardness of heart** toward God.
- There was a time when Israel spoke the other nations listened, and trembled, now with the worship of Baal her voice has died, she has rendered herself ineffective. Always remember this past greatness does not guarantee future greatness, Israel was once great, but that was because of God, now she is just another Nation to be plundered and invaded by the neighboring godless nations like Assyria and Babylon.
- Look at the madness of what they were doing, for even in the midst of their downfall they still continued to sin instead of crying out in repentance to God **V2**. Worshipping and kissing the very things that came from their own hands, believing these things would somehow save them, can you imagine seeing them bow down and kissing calves. **V3** for this they will be blown away like the clouds, dew, chaff, or smoke, the imagery is they'll disappear out of sight and from prominence.

- **Clouds**- fog leaves in the morning, **Dew**- dries up when the sun rises, **Chaff**- is blown away after being threshed, and **Smoke**- out of a chimney disappears into the atmosphere. So those things they were hoping was going to bring them good fortune or good luck, only led to judgment and destruction, like all idols do.
- **V4-8** Israel changed but The Lord God did not, He was still The Only Gd, and The Only Savior, and He still is, despite what the world wants you to believe, that there are other gods, and beliefs that are just as good, it's a lie, there is only One God, and One Savior, there is no God or Savior **V4** says but our God period!
- Because Israel turned from what God said it leads to desolation, as The Lord once provided protection, provision, prosperity for them, now they are left to fend for themselves and like some defenseless sheep facing a hungry leopard, lion, or bear, they are nothing more than a meal to be killed and devoured.
- **V4** references the prophecy that is mentioned in the book of Daniel chapter 7 where it says > **Babylon**- Lion, **Medo-Persia**- is a Bear, **Greece**- is a Leopard, and **Rome**- is a wild animal. So we see in Israel's disobedience four world powers rise up to take their place as the prominent nation in the world.
- **V9-11** God tells them He is their King even though they asked for an earthly King to fight their battles, and represent them, but in the end all these people the put their trust in let them down. So what did Israel do when they went into captivity, did they eventually repent and see the error of their ways? **Ezek 18:2, Jer 31:29-30** says they blamed their grandparents and parents for their predicament, instead of taking responsibility for their own sin, man is still doing that today.
- God says I Am your Help, but they would not turn to Him, but instead looked to blame or solve their problems through man made solutions, which never work. **V12-16** labor pains often come unexpectedly, and are intense and increase in their pain and duration, that is also how the judgment of God will come upon Israel, like a woman in labor. Although the sin and judgment of Israel was great, it was not greater than God's Ability and Power to Redeem, even out from the grave.

- This is another dual prophecy, in the short term Israel will suffer, be taken captive, lose their land, their freedom, their rights as a nation, even when they prospered in other countries like Russia, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, their fruitfulness still dried up, Look at world war 1 and 2. But in the future as we'll read God will never completely forsake Israel, for He has promised to Redeem them, and restore them, and that will come when our Lord Jesus Christ returns with us His Church.