

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 5-6

- Hosea said in **4:6** “that God’s people perish for lack of knowledge”, but not because knowledge hasn’t been available to them, it has, the problem is they have rejected it. When people reject God’s knowledge that leads to a lack of truth, coupled with a multitude of sin and lawlessness, and that is what Israel is experiencing here.

V1-15

- **V1-3** the sinful state of Israel is a collaboration of priest, people and king being guilty of spiritual adultery, as God holds them all accountable. Notice God starts with the priests, its always those who are of the household of faith that The Lord looks to first to provide Godly leadership and spiritual guidance in this world > **1Pet 4:17**.
- Graciously despite Israel’s stubbornness and rebellion God still gives them opportunity to repent but sadly they do not. As though God rebukes them they remain deeply in slaughter, meaning they ignore God’s warnings and continue down the paths of destruction, these are what’s called self-inflicted wounds, which are the worst kind, as you realize you could have avoided them if you’d only obeyed.
- **V4-7** all rebellion against God, His Word, or His people is centered on pride, when someone tells me the truth or rebukes me immediately what bubbles up to the surface is pride, only those who have humbled themselves will recognize it and not give in to it. Israel’s pride arrogantly told them that what God said didn’t apply to them, therefore it really didn’t matter compared to their own opinions and desires.
- Even though they were blatantly disobedient it didn’t stop them from making superficial sacrifices to The Lord. Many make the mistake of thinking that religious activity = worship, it does not, only that which we do that is genuine, sincere, and lines up with scripture is acceptable to God. They will seek God but won’t find Him, as they had no desire to turn from their sin or change their ways. Now they have raised up a generation that truly didn’t know The Lord, this is really a sad statement.
- **V8-11** Hosea says the Northern Kingdom judgment is assured, and Judah is following in her footsteps, as its leaders are corrupt and cheaters. They were changing the property boundaries of tribes and families to increase their territory.

- This is what happens when you hear about the troubles of someone you know that isn't doing what their supposed to, but instead of praying for them, you smugly look at them and think that could never happen to me, and before long it does.
- **V11-15** Israel was living by man's standards and opinions and not God's, and it led them to make horrible decisions as they both went to Assyria for help instead of The Lord, and Assyria took advantage of them by enslaving the Northern Kingdom and taxing the Southern Kingdom. It caused them to be like a moth who eats away, and rottenness that corrodes, as both destroy, showing that neither will be blessed.

Chapter 6

V1-11

- **V1-2** Hosea prays that Israel will turn from their sin and trust in The Lord when chastened, as God is a healer, a deliverer. In this prayer we see God's power to restore and it's a shadowy prophecy of Jesus Resurrection, as He's torn and stricken for our sake, yet He is gloriously raised up the third day.
- **V3** in chapter **4:6** it says God's people perish from lack of knowledge, here it says if we pursue the knowledge of The Lord not only will we receive it but also The One Who provided it, God Himself. Its impossible to get God's wisdom without receiving The Lord also, if I pursue His Word I will also draw closer to Him.
- **V4-6** God asks about both Kingdoms "what shall I do to you" they have exasperated The Lord, it sounds like a parent that their child has worn out their patience because of disobedience and you just throw up your arms > **Eph 4:30**- do not grieve The Holy Spirit, that is what it appears to be right here, Israel has grieved The Lord.
- They were still bringing sacrifices but God didn't want that He wanted their hearts, Jesus quoted this verse twice to the religious leaders of His day > **Math 9:13, 12:7**. As they also missed the heart of God, focusing on superficial things and not the mercy and grace of God. Remember God would always rather have right hearts, full of truth and mercy, than sacrifice, activity or stuff.
- **V7-11** Gilgal was one of the primary places of worship in the Northern Kingdom, and God says of it that it's a city of evil doers, defiled by blood, thieves lie in wait to rob and steal, the priests also commit murder and sexual immorality. A horrible thing in Israel is they have turned their backs on God and He calls it harlotry.

- But for Judah once the Babylonian captivity happens and the seventy years of exile is over they will be brought back into the land again. That is mainly for Judah not Israel, most of them never made it back to Israel ever again.