

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 9:1-17

- Hosea has warned the Northern Kingdom that judgment was coming in the form of the Assyrians invading the land and raiding, killing, and enslaving the people. So what does Israel do? We would expect that they would repent, right? Wrong! Instead of running to The Lord for forgiveness they go to the very people who intend them harm the Egyptians and the Assyrians, and try to make a peace treaty with them.
- Is this not how people are, we'd rather try and make peace with man, who is cruel and unforgiving, rather than making peace with our God and Creator, Who is Gracious and Merciful. **8:1** says the Assyrians are like an eagle or vulture hovering over the land, waiting for the right time to swoop in and devour them like prey.

V1-17

- **V1-4** at the end of Chapter 8 we are told that Israel had forgotten their God, even though earlier in the chapter Hosea says when the Assyrians come they will cry out **“my God we know you”** but that simply is not true. There are people who only want to know God once they are in trouble, but before the trouble they worship the god that they've created in their own minds, the one who allows them to curse, lie, cheat, fornicate, and live life any kind of way they want, that they god they know.
- Here in the Northern Kingdom they long ago had cast God away, when Solomon wives introduced their false gods to Israel that led to Rehoboam Solomon's son following bad counsel in which ten tribes of Israel refused to obey leading to a splitting of the Kingdom. They Jeroboam becomes their King and he tells them not to go to the temple in Jerusalem to worship and celebrate the feasts but to substitute Jehovah for this golden calf that we'll set up in the cities of Dan and Bethel.
- From then on when you study the history of the Northern Kingdom they didn't have one Godly King sit on the throne, the Southern on the other hand did > Hezekiah, Joash, Josiah, Jehoshaphat, and a few others, but the Northern Kingdom had none.
- This is the result > **8:5** says **“the god they knew their calf has rejected them”** having turned on them, being unable to save them, because it's a false god to put their trust in. So now that they've sown to the wind they are reaping the whirlwind.

- **V3** says they will be taken out of the land becoming prisoners to Assyria, and in the land of exile they will be unable to eat or worship like they're accustomed to, in fact all that they have will barely be enough for survival. This is the law of sowing and reaping, whatever you plant that is what you'll receive, Israel for centuries had been planting sin and idolatry, and now its cost them their land and freedom.
- **V5-7** three times we see Israel's bondage listed as Egypt but that is a symbol for Assyria, as Assyria will become their new masters just as Egypt once did. Now just as they had become an unclean people, they will eat and live in an unclean place, unable to honor the feasts, having no discernment, as now both prophet and spiritual man is a fool to them, we see that today don't we.
- The only pastors that the nation gives a national platform to are those who write books on prosperity, living your best life, becoming the pastor to the stars, but never ever mentioning the need to repent, and stop living a sinful lifestyle, somehow they avoid those conversations. Because if they ever truly introduce the Bible then they will cease to be popular in an ungodly culture, and so they keep up the charade.
- **V8-9** but eventually the days of punishment will come just as it did for the Northern Kingdom **V7**. The people God had set up to warn Israel was no longer effective having been silenced or corrupted, as its now become like in the says of Judges when "**every man did what was right in his own sight**" because it was no king. This speaks of the spiritual not the natural as the people no longer followed the Lord.
- **V10-13** Hosea tell Israel how God found them and blessed them, taking them back to the days in which the nation was faithful and therefore fruitful to The Lord > Grapes and the first fruits of the fig tree, are unusual things to find in the wilderness, that goes to show how special Israel once was. Until it went over to "baal peor" found in **Num 25**, the god associated with sexual immorality and idolatry.
- Causing them to become an abomination like the thing they loved, Israel loved disgraceful idols, and now they've become just like them. Whatever a person loves and follows they will become just like it, whether it is The Lord or an abomination. For this God says their past fruitfulness will turn into barrenness and bereavement as they'll stop being able to have children, and the children they have will die. As Assyria will take their children and enslave them, infertility and death is their future.

- **V14-17** great delight in Israel has turned to tremendous disdain for Israel, as The lord has given them totally over to the enemy and the desires of their hearts. This is what sin does, instead of Israel being the object of God's affection they are now slaves to man's wrath, and he has no mercy. These chapters are the way to unfruitfulness.
 1. A people who hear the Word but no longer apply it to their lives
 2. A people who trade true worship for false idols
 3. A people who settle for material wealth over genuine repentance