

A person is silhouetted against a sunset over a landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and rays of light. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The person is standing on a dark, silhouetted hill or ridge, looking out over the landscape. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Hosea

Suffer the Consequences

What are consequences?

- natural or imposed outcomes that follow a choice
- immediately or be delayed.
- choice/outcome or action/impact
- revealing, teaching, correcting, and reinforcing.

Wise v. Foolish

- **Consequences serve as teachers**
to shape character and improve discernment
- **Wise individuals use past mistakes**
as guidance for making better decisions; gain wisdom.
- **Fools ignore past mistakes**
and repeat them; reject wisdom.
- **Wise employ patience**
to consider options and avoid mistakes

Consequences in Society

- **Legal – both civil and criminal**
- **Workplace**
- **Relationship**
- **Financial**

Living Intentionally

A man who understands consequences becomes one who lives intentionally.

SO – should we live our lives by weighing the consequences of each decision so that we can intentionally avoid consequences we are aware of?

OR – should we pray intentionally to learn God’s will for us and then live with the confidence that God will bless the outcome?

Challenges for Christians

There is a tension between living anxiously and living patiently.

Trust in personal ingenuity and skill v. Trust in the grace and power of God

- Have I prayed “properly”; enough?
 - Have I been doing the right “next thing”?
- How do I know “the answer” is His answer?
 - Have I missed His prompting?
- Is He ignoring me?
 - How long is long enough?

How does this stuff pertain to me?

We carry significant responsibility—family, church, work.

We should not underestimate the influence we can have over people.

Consequences in the OT

The purpose behind God's consequences

- **Relational** – God disciplines those He loves.
- **Redemptive** – The goal is restoration, not destruction.
- **Formative** – Discipline shapes character; brings maturity.
- **Protective** – God protects His people from deeper harm.
- **Just** – God's holiness demands that sin be punished.

Consequences for Disobedience

15 “But it shall come about, **if you do not obey the Lord your God**, to observe to do **all His commandments and His statutes** with which I charge you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:**

16 “Cursed shall you be in the city and cursed shall you be in the country.

17 “Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. **18** “Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. **19** “Cursed shall you be when you come in and cursed shall you be when you go out.

20 “The Lord will send upon you curses, confusion, and rebuke, in all you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken Me.

Consequences for Disobedience

²¹ The Lord will make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from the land where you are entering to possess it. ²² **The Lord will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish.** ²³ The heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. ²⁴ The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ²⁵ **“The Lord shall cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you will go out one way against them, but you will flee seven ways before them, and you will be an example of terror to all the kingdoms of the earth.** ²⁶ Your carcasses will be food to all birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away. . . .

Consequences for Disobedience

⁴⁵ “So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, **because you would not obey the Lord your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.** ⁴⁶ They shall become a sign and a wonder on you and your descendants forever. ⁴⁷ **“Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things;** ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you. . . .

Deuteronomy 28:15–68 (NASB 95)

Hosea 8:1-3 (ESV)

*“Sound the alarm! An eagle looms over the temple of the Lord!
For they have broken their covenant with me and have rebelled
against my law.*

² Israel cries out to me, “My God, we acknowledge you!”

*³ But Israel has rejected what is morally good;
so an enemy will pursue him.”*

Rinse and Repeat

The messages in Hosea are repeated throughout the book.

Two of them – disobedience and destruction – connect the fate of the northern kingdom to the curses in Deuteronomy 28.

Hos 4:1–3, Hos 4:6, Hos 4:10–19, Hos 5:3–5, Hosea 5:11-12,
Hos 6:4–6, Hos 7:8–9, Hos 7:11–16

Conclusion

1. Israelites weighed consequences . . . created their own religion
2. Deut 28 . . . *laws* and curses (consequences)

“Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy
and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things;”

Justice was served.

