

A dramatic sky filled with white, fluffy clouds against a deep blue background. In the foreground, a wide, sandy beach stretches across the frame. A sea kite with a white sail is positioned on the right side of the beach, facing the ocean. The horizon line is visible in the distance, separating the beach from the sea.

## *Hosea 13*

# *The Devastating Sirocco Winds of God's Judgement*

# A Quick Overview of Hosea:

*Five messages of Judgement for Israel's apostasy\**  
*Five messages of prophetic restoration\**

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- In no less than five messages, God spoke through Hosea of Judgment and consequences coming to Israel
  - Hosea <sup>1)</sup>1:2-2:1; <sup>2)</sup>2:2-3:5; <sup>3)</sup>4:1-6:3; <sup>4)</sup>6:4-11:11; <sup>5)</sup>11:12-14:8
- Yet, in no less than five times, God spoke also of Israel's restoration - indicating his compassion and love for Israel.
  - Hosea <sup>1)</sup>1:10-2:1; <sup>2)</sup>2:14-3:5; <sup>3)</sup>6:1-3; <sup>4)</sup>11:8-11; <sup>5)</sup>14:1-8

\* Adapted from Hosea Outline by Tom Constable, [\*Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible\*](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003).

## A brief overview of Israel's apostasy in Hosea

- Foremost was Israel's besetting sin - religious unfaithfulness via idolatry and Baal worship! - serious apostasy - their unrighteous discontent disregarded their propriety to God and sought worldly economic and political security
- In addition, Israel's political unfaithfulness was exemplified via treaties with foreign nations in stead of exclusive devotion to God.
- Israel's apostasy was unquestionably depicted through the marital infidelity within Hosea's marriage. There could be no confusion about the nature of Israel's sins.
- Nevertheless, the reconciliation of Hosea & Gomer clearly depicts God's compassion and desire for Israel's restoration.

# This brings us to the last part of Hosea's 5<sup>th</sup> message of Judgement in Hosea 13

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The entirety of Chapter 13 reveals impending doom and severe judgement upon Israel; yet, it does not conclude judgment until v.8 in chapter 14

Some scholars had this to say:

"In this passage Hosea brings to a close via climactic crescendo the predictions and warnings that comprise the bulk of the book."\*

"Idolatry was the sin that did most easily beset the Jewish nation till after the captivity; the ten tribes from the first were guilty of it, but especially after the days of Ahab."\*

\*Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003), Ho 13:1.

## *Hosea 13:1-3*

*<sup>1</sup> When Ephraim spoke, trembling, He exalted himself in Israel; But when he offended through Baal worship, he died. <sup>2</sup> Now they sin more and more, And have made for themselves molded images, Idols of their silver, according to their skill; All of it is the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!” <sup>3</sup> Therefore they shall be like the morning cloud And like the early dew that passes away, Like chaff blown off from a threshing floor And like smoke from a chimney.*

Ephraim's tribe was the dominant leader of the northern tribes. (Gen. 48:13-20)

Moreover, they were prominent in worshiping Baal!

Consequently, they would not escape being judged as Idolators!

Ephraim's leaders were the ones that led Israel's progression toward Idolatry!  
from Calves -> Baal -> multiple Idols

That very progression subsidized their downward spiral of depravity!

V.3 Therefore, brings a promise of swift and sure judgement!

# Points to Ponder

Does not one's continual persistent 'besetting sin' tend toward a progression of one's depravity? Why?

Beware dabbling!

Why should one resist dabbling in sinful activity?

Does it not act like quicksand,  
the more one is active in it, the deeper one sinks!

A J. Vernon McGee convicting quote:

*"It is nonsense to go around kissing something as an act of worship of the living and true God. You worship Him, my friend, by the life that you live. You worship Him in the way you conduct your business, carry on your social life, the way you run your home, and the way you act out on the street—not only in the way you act in the sanctuary. We are the ones who have made a distinction between the sanctuary and the street, but in God's sight there is no difference at all."*

## *Hosea 13:4–8 (NKJV)*

*4 “Yet I am the Lord your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no savior besides Me. 5 I knew you in the wilderness, In the land of great drought. 6 When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me. 7 “So I will be to them like a lion; Like a leopard by the road I will lurk; 8 I will meet them like a bear deprived of her cubs; I will tear open their rib cage, And there I will devour them like a lion. The wild beast shall tear them.*

- Some would describe this passage as **“Biting the very hand that feeds them!”**
- Consequentially, they would be devoured instead!

What do you think are some of the causes and motivations for one to reject or even despise the very one who was feeding and protecting them?

In what ways is that also true for us? Why?

## ***Hosea 13:9–11 (LEB)***

*<sup>9</sup> I will destroy you, O Israel; who will help you? <sup>10</sup> Where now is your king that he may save you? Where in all your cities are your judges, of whom you said, “Give to me a king and rulers?” <sup>11</sup> I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him in my wrath.*

*“We often blame God for what happens to us. When you feel like that, this is a good verse to turn to. You have destroyed yourself, and you are responsible for your condition. But you can get help from God; He will furnish help to you.”*

**Dr. J. Vernon McGee**

**What does it take or what must happen before one asks for help?**

***Proverbs 1:7 (AMP)***

*<sup>7</sup> The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence];  
but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline.*

**In what ways am I foolish in despising God's wisdom, instruction, discipline?**

## ***Hosea 13:12–14 (NRSV)***

*<sup>12</sup> Ephraim's iniquity is bound up; his sin is kept in store.*

*<sup>13</sup> The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son; for at the proper time he does not present himself at the mouth of the womb.*

*<sup>14</sup> Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your destruction? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.*

### ***Guilty as charged:***

*(v.12) Israel's sins were documented and rolled up like a scroll and stored like a treasure as condemning evidence*

### ***Resistant and unwise:***

*(v.13) Israel like a stubborn, unrepentant child*

### ***Undeserved restoration:***

*(v.14) Restoration and Redemption is rendered as rhetorical - (Note: NRSV translation)  
With God's eyes of compassion closed due to their continued depravity,  
Judgement would indeed be carried out.*

*Nevertheless, the Apostle Paul, not regarding the rhetorical, he underscored the ultimate results of redemption for those professing Christ as Lord by quoting part of this passage in 1 Corinthians 15:55 (NKJV)*

*55 “O Death, where is your sting?  
O Hades, where is your victory?”*

*“Neither burial nor cremation, neither severance of limbs nor complete disintegration of parts can present any problem to the all-knowing, almighty Lord who will then clothe His redeemed people with their resurrection bodies.”*

*Baxter, J. Sidlow. Explore the Book. 1960*

## *Hosea 13:15–16 (ESV)*

*<sup>15</sup> Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing. <sup>16</sup> Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.*

*With the eyes of God's compassion closed (v.14), judgement (v.15 & v.16) would indeed occur before God would ransom the nation!*

*(v.15) - The east wind was God's judgement - a devastating Sirocco-like wind from the desert that dries up, withers, and makes worthless everything in its path- (v.16) leaving terrible death and destruction in its wake.*

*It is ironic that Ephraim would flourish for a while (v.15) and then God's east wind would afflict him just as Joseph described in Genesis 41:52*

*<sup>52</sup> And the name of the second he called Ephraim:*

*“For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”?*

***Gruesome devastation and unmerciful executions would indeed be the consequences of their idolatrous unfaithfulness.***

# Applications to Appropriate Righteousness

When a consequence of sin is revealed,  
what are the pro's and con's of that consequence?

Describe the importance of confessing one's sinful or idolatrous practices?

In what ways can one begin to appropriate the righteousness needed  
to begin to abandon sinful or idolatrous practices?

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# Applications to Appropriate Righteousness

*2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

*Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

Those & many other passages assure us that the word of God is profitable and useful for training and instruction in righteousness.

Therefore, why not begin to meditate and memorize upon these as well as other passages:

*Pr. 1:7; 9:10; 2:6-15; Is. 55:10-11; 2 Tim.3:16  
Ro. 6:1-14; 2 Cor.10:3-6; Phil. 4:4-9; 1 Jn. 1:5-10*

# Extra Credit

Who, at COD, is a land sailor?  
Sometimes catching the Sirocco winds!

