

Hosea 8-10 – 26 February 2026

“The Harm Of Not Knowing God”

Introduction

*The book will answer that question, ‘How does God respond in the face of betrayal?’

*We’re using the imagery of Hosea & his wife Gomer who picture Yahweh & his wife Israel

*Certainly, this applies to us as the unfaithful bride

*In chapters 1-3 we looked at the unfaithful bride’s disposition, dissatisfaction, desertion & disinfection

*In chap 4-7 we saw at the importance of knowing God

*Chap 8-10 demonstrate the trouble of not knowing God

*These chapters are the despair – before the hope given in chapters 11-14

Today, we look at 3 deficiencies of not knowing God and His Word

#1 – We selfishly choose a form of godliness (Chap 8)

Read 8:1-6

1. ‘Blow the trumpet’ – this is the shophar, a call to war
2. Israel is living in self-deception – they say they know God yet live contrary to Him
3. Vs 4 – they appoint leaders but don’t ask God
4. They ascribed God’s deeds to this calf
5. Overall, they ran their govt & religion the way they chose and didn’t bring God’s mind into it
 - a. They can say they know God, but never lived by His mind or will

Read 8:7-10

1. Instead of the orderliness & properness of planting seed among good soil, Israel has been throwing their seed in every direction
 - a. This is a picture of being scattered, willing to try anything to succeed
 - b. Couldn’t just live & plant God’s way

2. Israel gave their devotion to Assyria – instead of trusting in God
3. Yet Assyria & their king of princes, shall be the ones to oppress and scatter Israel in judgement

Read 8:11-13

1. The altar should be the place of satisfaction for God – yet it became a place of blasphemy
2. God gave them *all* His good ways, but they chose to go against His ways
3. A form of godliness doesn't help, it actually hurts (Read II Tim 3:5 – form of godliness)
4. Religion done in our way is rejected by God
5. In their punishment, many of them will flee to Egypt for refuge

Read 8:14

1. Israel forgot her Maker
 - a. Choosing to forget our Maker, will turn into the generation simply not knowing their Maker
 - b. Turning to growth of kingdoms and houses, removes us from the knowledge of the holy

#2 – We blindly walk toward destruction (Chap 9)

Read 9:1-4

1. By sight the lifestyle they live, the path they're on seems joyful – but it's a path to destruction
2. Even the deceptive form of godliness that they're living in will be stripped away
 - a. Then they will experience true uncleanness that's even against their poor standards
 - b. Problem is some will then blame God for it

Read 9:5-9

1. The time of punishment has come, and Israel will not be able to escape the knowledge of it
2. Their sin is so deep, that God refers to the days of Gibeah & that sorted sexual tale from Jdg 19
3. Their choice to 'know' sin made their prophets & spiritual leaders blind to the path of life

Read 9:10-14

1. God saw Israel wandering in the wilderness in the days of Moses – yet even then they went quickly into idolatry at Baal-Peor (Num 25)

2. “They’re bereaved of children”
 - a. Their children went into idolatry b/c of them
3. What’s the purpose of having children or a nation of children?
 - a. To raise people to know the Lord
 - b. Read Mal 2:15
4. Now even their children are destroyed for lack of knowing the Lord and His good ways

Read 9:15-17

1. In chapter 4 God mentioned that the city of Gilgal was a center of idolatry – here again
2. Like a child that only eats junk food and no nutrients, Israel is withered up from the root
3. They’ve refused to take in good provision from the Lord and therefore they have no life

#3 – We abundantly trust our own ways (Chap 10)

Read 10:1-2

1. They consume their blessings on themselves
2. Their heart has scattered allegiance

3. There's no recognition of where their blessings came from or to whom they're due

Read 10:3-8

1. When Assyria judges Israel, they'll be leaderless
 - a. Judgement is forced on them by Assyria
2. The Golden Calf idol at Bethel (Beth-Aven) is taken as spoil to King Jareb of Assyria
3. In judgement Israel finally sees no way out
 - a. Their idolatrous system is eradicated
 - b. They're ashamed (not repentant yet)
 - c. They're wanting to hide
 - i. As will the unbelievers in the Trib

Read 10:9-11

1. In the very places of Israel's sin like Gibeah, Assyria will punish them
2. As vs 11, God will discipline them into the place of servants.... servants to Assyria

Read 10:12

1. Let your doings be done in truth & righteousness

2. Then let the Lord be gracious to your lifestyle
3. Break up the fallow ground
 - a. What parts of your life have we not turned over to the Lord yet?
 - b. It will be rough at first, but even that will turn into good soil once it's cultivated
4. What used to be hardened sin, can actually begin to produce fruit

Read 10:13-15

1. The core issue once again arises, that they've trusted their own ways
 - a. Are you sleeping with someone that's not your spouse – that's trusting your own ways
 - b. Are you lying to make financial gain – that's trusting your own ways
 - c. Are you making yourself dependance on another man or the state – that's trusting your own ways
2. We must simply read God's Word daily and obey what we read – simply and completely

Conclusion

Some say, “I have no problem with God, I’m just doing my own thing” “You do you, & I’ll do me”

Sooner or later, they will realize...

1. **They’re selfishly choosing a form of godliness**
 - a. But it’s simply a placebo to placate a guilty conscience and has no real effect to help them
2. **They’re blindly walking toward destruction**
 - a. And they simply refuse to look at the long-term consequences of their actions
3. **They’re abundantly trusting their own ways**
 - a. It’s not until great tragedy comes until they see the emptiness of their life
 - b. Hopefully this happens before they die

Pray that the lost will see the lostness of their ways before it’s too late