

Hosea 4-7 – 19 February 2026

“To Know The Lord”

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

*Today we go into greater detail on the subject of *knowing God*

*Every bit of our activity for God will be *incomplete* or even *incorrect* without accurately knowing Him

Today, we look at 3 things that will happen to us without the knowledge of God

#1 – We will be destroyed and impoverished (Chap 4)

Read 4:1-3

1. The fabric of our faith in God is *truth & love*
 - a. The *quantity* of our faith is measured by the truthful things we do that are IAW God's Word
 - b. The *quality* of our faith is measured by the love wherewith we do these things
 - c. John 4:23 – Spirit & truth (HS enables)
2. Society & the environment is in chaos apart from living by truth & love (Read Eph 4:14-15)

Read 4:4-8

1. 'They eat up the sin' – They violated the Law to gain more even in crops to their short-term gain
2. Since God's truth is rejected, God rejects them from being His priests or representatives on earth
3. If we're worried about harmful sin multiplying around us, don't look *outside* the gate before you first look *inside* our homes and our hearts
4. If we don't know God's Word, we're defenseless

Read 4:9-10

1. Like the priests here, some people think they're protected from judgement b/c of their position
 - a. Being Americans, or members of a church doesn't spare us from the results of sin

Read 4:11

1. "Harlotry & wine take away wisdom"
 - a. You can't think straight when you're drunk or driven by sex

Read 4:12-14

1. Their idolatry has become generational
 - a. It's not just ruining a person, but a nation
2. Develop an addiction to God & His Word
 - a. "Continue steadfastly..." (Acts 2:42)

Read 4:15-19

1. God insists that Israel doesn't spread her sins to Judah in the south
 - a. Don't let Judah come to Gilgal & Beth-Aven
 - b. These are idolatrous cities of Israel

- c. Beth-Aven is a twisting of Bethel - 'House of God' has become the 'House of Deceit'
2. Israel's crimes are here summed up in that they're insistent on going to idols
3. The day is coming when they'll be ashamed of what they've done

#2 – God removes His presence from us (Chap 5)

Read 5:1-3

1. The priests, kings and all the people have spread their sin throughout the land
 - a. They've ingrained their sin into the culture
2. God knows each one that caused this to happen
3. Notice God will chastise (correct) not destroy
 - a. It takes more time, energy and patience to correct than just to destroy and start over
 - b. This is the love and grace of our God!!!

Read 5:4-9

1. Israel is seen going about their business, but they do not know that God's no longer w/ them

- a. Like Samson when the H.S. left (Jdg 16:20)
 - b. Many people today live in a false assurance that they're right with God b/c of the past
 - c. We need current daily relationship
2. "A spirit of harlotry is within them"
 - a. Whether their own spirit or a demonic one
 - b. We need to be delivered from such a spirit
 - c. But don't stop there, then be filled with the knowledge of the Lord

Read 5:10-13

1. "Move a boundary" of their property
 - a. They believe God is limiting them
2. Therefore, they gain their knowledge from man's counsel not God's counsel
 - a. They look to foreigners for knowledge of how to heal their sin wounds
3. It's like working at McD's trying to make their Big Mac *not* according to the McD's instructions, it's not working, so you turn to Burger King for help

Read 5:14-15

1. God created us, placed us in our habitation with resources and the guidance of His Word
 - a. Yet it's destroyed when we do our own method
 - b. How offensive to the One who gave it all
2. What's left but for God to leave us alone until we come to understand our severe shortcomings
 - a. Again, He could just destroy us but doesn't
3. "In their affliction they're seek Me"
 - a. Some only have to suffer a little before seeing their need of God; for some it's *a lot*
 - b. Don't remove the suffering God is bringing to someone to get them to rock bottom

#3 – Our attempt at true worship is passionless, meaningless & deceptive (Chap 6-7)

Read 6:1-2

1. This is the point of God's correction, that they would return to Him
2. There's a pic of Jesus here in the 2 days & 3

- a. Jesus was torn; He was smitten or struck
 - b. Jesus was raised up the third day, praise Yah
3. Yet these 2 and 3 days goes further, when you consider that it's about Israel's restoration
- a. There's a pattern in Scripture of 6 days then 7 like Creation week, Weekly life & 6000 years then the Millennial Kingdom
 - b. God began to 'leave Israel alone' at the cross as He turned to the whole world
 - c. 2 days are from the cross to the Millennial Kingdom (He makes them alive at His coming)
 - d. The third day, after the Millennial Kingdom, He will raise them up in glory

Read 6:3

- 1. The **big** solution He's always wanted for them
 - a. To know God, that is the chief end of man (Read John 17:3)
 - b. To know the Creator that will yet come to us & supply all that we need as the rain does

Read 6:4-6

1. Oh Israel did *activities* that served God, but their hearts were far from Him
2. They would have love for God for a fleeting moment, then turn their hearts back to themselves
3. Our activities & service are meaningless unless there's a heart that loves God behind it
 - a. Jesus used this verse in (Read) Matt 9:11-13 & in Matt 12:7
 - b. To lovingly bring the knowledge of God to sinners is better than prideful religious activities

Read 6:7-11

1. God had made a specific covenant with them, yet they broke it
2. Living in a sinful religious environment is never God's fault, but our own

Read 7:1-3

1. God glances to see if Israel's confessed their guilt, so He can come to them, but they haven't turned yet
2. They still think God doesn't remember their sin

Read 7:4-7

1. Israel is pictured as stoking illicit passions
2. Fire is good if used properly, if not, it destroys

Read 7:8-10

1. Israel stands in a vulnerable state but doesn't know it b/c they think they'll be fine
2. Easiest person on earth to deceive is yourself

Read 7:11-12

1. Israel thinks there's always another person or resource they can use when they need to
2. Yet it's unwise and won't work

Read 7:13-16

1. Israel, w/ no thought, calls to the nearest thing to help, though it's not the right source of help
 - a. It's like using a quarter for a screwdriver; it might seem to help for a minute, but it's going to hinder and eventually hurt

Conclusion

Do you know Him?

1. **It's the only way to be preserved and prosper**
2. **It's the only way to abide in His holy presence**
3. **It's the only way to enable our worship to be passionate, meaningful and truthful**

Habakkuk tells us that the day is coming in which the whole earth will be filled w. the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (Hab 2:14)