

**The Time is Now
Repent Before It Is Too Late!
Hosea 10**

Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission. www.Lockman.org**

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996, 2019 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV), Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved

**Scripture taken from the New King James Version (NKJV).
Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Used by Permission. All rights reserved.**

I don't know if you have noticed recently but our culture, our society, our nation is running away from the Lord as fast as they can, and it is getting worse.

It seems that everything Jesus talked about in Matthew 24 and 25 is taking place before our eyes. Israel is back in the land; Russia is at war and threatening war. Iran says they are ready to eliminate Israel. Lawlessness seems to be increasing and in general, the world seems to have gone completely insane. Hosea has a word for us today. The same word he had for Israel.

The time is now. Repent before it is too late.

We have just finished listening in on a conversation taking place between Hosea and YAHWEH. None of it was good news for Israel. The only option remaining for Israel is for them to repent and return to the Lord or it will be judgment in the form of the Assyrian Empire. Repentance is beginning to look like something that is not going to happen anytime soon, thus the message – time's up.

Here in chapter 10, the conversation we saw in Hosea 9 appears to continue, and Israel will also now be included. Hosea starts by using an agricultural metaphor about a grapevine. He is going to bring up the history of Israel.

Matthew 7:15–20

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.” (ESV)

No matter how much a false teacher works to keep the truth about themselves truth hidden, it will leak out. This same principle held in the Old Testament as well.

Here is a hint for you as you study the Old Testament, whenever we see the imagery of a vineyard and fruit in the Old Testament, it usually is not a good thing. “The extraordinary thing about the use of this image in the Old Testament, however, is that it is always brought forward as a symbol of Israel’s degeneration, rather than of her fruitfulness.” (Boice 2002, 79)

The potential is shown but reality has outweighed what the promise held.

We know, from our study so far, that Israel was greatly blessed by the Lord. Even as they strayed away from Him, they continued to experience the grace of God and His blessing. Under Jeroboam II Israel was prosperous, enjoyed economic benefits, good crops and peace from their military strength.

We also know, that rather than give credit for all of that to YAHWEH, they instead invested heavily into increasing their “appeasement” of the fertility gods they had merged into their worship of YAHWEH, in violation of the Torah. They lived for self.

Deuteronomy 12:31

“You must not worship the LORD your God the way they do! For everything that is abhorrent to him, everything he hates, they have done when worshiping their gods. They even burn up their sons and daughters before their gods!” (NET 2nd ed.)

We have already examined the list of abhorrent things they participated in by corrupting worship the way they did. Prostitution, immorality, idolatry, demon worship, and infanticide.

They had made worship an intensely selfish thing. It was all about “obligating” God in order to get what you want. Are we any different?

Walking by faith is tough to do. We know that as we draw near to Him, He draws near to us and as we walk closely to Him, He shows us where to go and what to do. But here is a fact we must deal with, of all those who name the name of Jesus and are truly born again, only 14% have a Biblical worldview and are truly walking the walk. (Barna 2020)

Because of that, and the low levels of Biblical literacy that goes with it, alternate solutions are sought.

Many book titles that are popular today offer to teach you how to make a prayer that God will hear. They offer to teach us to pray in a way that releases God’s power and His blessing in our life.

Titles offer to teach us the secret that we need to know in order to have that more abundant life right now. Other titles tell us we need to seek out God’s favor, learn how to activate our faith and achieve our dreams.

This unfortunately ignores the reality of what we already have in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3–14

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us

and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.” (NLT)

It also ignores a simple fact that Israel overlooked and those looking for a McDonald’s faith overlook today.

Romans 8:31–32

“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?” (NLT)

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (NLT)

But if we chose to live for self and are only in it to get goodies, then we are in the same place Israel was in.

Hosea 10:1b

“..The more his fruit, The more altars he made; The richer his land, The better he made the memorial stones.” (NASB 2020)

As prosperity increased, so did the number of altars in Israel. “The accent, however, lies upon the abundance of life in the land as it was known in Israel during the last decades under Jeroboam II. This luxury misled Israel into giving too much attention to her altars.” (Wolff 1974, 173)

At this point, then, Hosea indicates that it is the nation’s wilful idolatry which has spoiled and damaged the vine; that the very reason for the failure of its vintage is the nation’s misplaced and disloyal endeavour; that the nation’s disappointment at the failure of the ideal, conveyed by the title Israel, is its own making (so essentially, ibn Janāḥ; cf. ibn Ezra and, as an alternative, Rashi). (Macintosh 1997, 388)

We know that there is the promise of infertility in the future for the nation, but at the beginning they were prosperous and fertile in every way possible. The nation though took what the Lord had given them and gave credit for their abundance to the fertility gods they had added into their worship. It became YAHWEH + whatever. For many today, it is Jesus + tests, surveys, package deals to a more spiritual life today, specialized courses, or whatever. All instead of trust and obey.

As prosperity increased, the temples became nicer. As prosperity increased, the memorial stones, phallic symbols actually, were being decorated.

Israel thought the good times would last. They were God’s people, in name only. They were doing all they could to appease and negotiate with the gods in order to get prosperity. But they had turned their back on the Lord. The interest was what’s in it for me, rather than being salt and light to the nations.

So how did their various worship sites fare?

Temple Complex at Dan



(Bolen 2012, Used with Permission)

Gezer Sacred Pillars



(Bolen, Gezer standing stones 2012, Used with Permission)

...while Yahweh outdid himself in working for the betterment of the land, all of that excess bounty was poured by Israel into the adornment and decoration of the pillars whose purpose by Hosea's time had become largely pagan. (Hubbard 1989, 182)

They were no longer memorials about something YAHWEH had done, now it was all about something entirely different.

The picture drawn by Hosea in verse 1 is that of a prosperous people who God had richly blessed who then showed the ultimate in ingratitude by worshipping those who had nothing to do with the blessing they had received at the hand of YAHWEH.

Hosea 10:2

"Their heart is deceitful; Now they must suffer for their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars And destroy their memorial stones." (NASB 2020)

The people have divided hearts. They worshipped God, but on their terms. They served idols but refused to obey God.

1 Kings 18:21

“And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.” (ESV)

Elijah flat told the people of their duplicity. Hosea is simply picking up on the same theme. They are doubleminded. James found himself also talking about the same topic after the resurrection. He was discussing it as an apparent dichotomy between pride and humbleness. A battle that has been raging in us since Genesis 3.

James 4:6–10

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (ESV)

Jesus said it as well. “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12, ESV)

It is pride which is the source of the problem in Israel. They wanted to do things their way, they were wanting to be like God by creating their own image of who it is they were to worship yet they were nervous enough about the reality of it all that they mixed in some of Judaism into it. The hedged their bets and lied to themselves that all of this will achieve what they need to do to be God’s people.

Galatians 6:7

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” (ESV)

Hosea 10:2b

“...Now they must suffer for their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars And destroy their memorial stones.” (NASB 2020)

Time is up. When the Lord says He will break down the altars, based on the term in the Hebrew He is using, the intent is to kill the idol worship. The word is יָרַץ (yaarop) which means to “break the neck of an animal.” (Brown, Driver and Briggs 1977, 791)

They worshipped a golden calf, in Dan and in Bethel. This was a fertility god. The irony that is demonstrated by the word choice is obvious. God intends kill the idol once and for all. He will break its neck.

All the so-called sacred sites in Israel are about to be destroyed. Assyria will end the idol worship problem for Israel by breaking the neck of the idol and destroying the altars by breaking off the horns of the altar that would be on each corner of the altar. This renders the altar unusable.

Hosea 10:3–4

“Certainly now they will say, “We have no king, For we do not revere the LORD. As for the king, what can he do for us?” They speak mere words, With worthless oaths they make covenants; And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.” (NASB 2020)

Hosea continues to speak relating that as judgment begins, Israel will find that they no longer have a King. They did not care about who was King anyhow, but they did care about the king protecting them with the army. But that all changed.

2 Kings 18:9–12

“In the fourth year of King Hezekiah’s reign (that is, during the seventh year of Elah’s son Hosea’s reign as king of Israel), King Shalmaneser from Assyria invaded Samaria and besieged it. Three years later, they captured Samaria during the sixth year of Hezekiah’s reign, which was the ninth year of Hoshea’s reign as king of Israel. After this, the king of Assyria carried off Israel into exile in Assyria, settling them in Halah, on the Habor River in Gozan, and in cities controlled by the Medes because they would not obey the voice of the LORD their God. Instead, they transgressed his covenant, including everything that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded, by neither listening nor putting what he had commanded into practice.” (ISV)

Hosea reflects what the people of Israel, those who are being removed to exile as well as those who remain, say now that judgment in the form of Assyria has taken place.

Through various attempts to find security for themselves, they have rejected human and divine rule. It is also the case that one cannot discern an implied tone of voice so easily at this distance from the prophet and the presenting circumstances. Perhaps the prophet was using sarcasm to shame the people, saying in effect that they had no confidence in either YHWH or the monarchy.

If Hosea speaks at the time when Shalmaneser V took Hoshea captive and took the calf image from Bethel, then the prophet represents the people’s response to the loss of their monarch and a popular cult image for YHWH. (Dearman 2010, 262)

The nation concludes they have no king to defend them because they did not place YAHWEH in the right place of worship.

Now they shall say, “We have no king, that is, we are as if we had none, we have none to do us any good nor stand us in any stead, none to keep us from destroying ourselves or being destroyed by our enemies, none to preserve the public peace nor to fight our battles; and justly has this come to us. Because we feared not the Lord, when we were safe under the protection of our kings, therefore we are rejected by him, and then what shall a king do for us? What good can we expect from a king when we have forfeited the favour of our God?” (Henry 1994, 1485)

Hosea 10:4

“They speak mere words, With worthless oaths they make covenants; And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.” (NASB 2020)

Finally, from the mouth of the people, after the King has been taken, comes reality. What the King had to say was never backed up with truth. They were simply words. The King spoke only to be heard but he never intended to follow through on any of his promises. The nation though, copied their leaders and became a nation of promise breakers.

They just talk, talk, talk, and you can believe almost nothing they say. I hear some Christian people say today that it is terrible that we don’t ask people to put their hand on the Bible anymore when they swear to tell the truth in a courtroom. Frankly, I’m glad the Bible is being left out of it. If they are going to lie anyway, all an oath on the Bible would do is blaspheme the Book. (McGee 1997, 648)

We are a nation of promise breakers just as Israel.

God takes us seriously when we make a promise. A contract is a promise to perform, whether it is marriage or business, God took it seriously then, still does today, and wants His people to do the same.

James 5:12

“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.” (ESV)

How strange this was for a people who identified themselves as followers of the true God. Jehovah is a God of truth. His Spirit is the Spirit of truth. His word is truth. To operate by any other standard while saying that one is a follower of this God is hypocrisy. Yet professing Christians do this too. No doubt Israel would have claimed that this is just the way business was conducted in their time. Many would say the same today. (Boice 2002, 81)

Israel had lost sight of how to do life. Their leaders lied and failed to keep promises, so did they. It was just business. But again, God's standards are so much higher than ours are.

Instead of grain growing in the furrows, now it is noxious weeds that are poisonous.

Hosea 10:5–6

"The inhabitants of Samaria will fear For the calf of Beth-aven. Indeed, its people will mourn for it, And its idolatrous priests will cry out over it, Over its glory, since it has left it. The thing itself will be brought to Assyria As a gift of tribute to King Jareb; Ephraim will be seized with shame, And Israel will be ashamed of its own plan." (NASB 2020)

The calf of Beth-aven is the golden calf located at Bethel. Hosea though no longer wants to use the actual name due to what goes on there. Bethel means the house of God, it has not been that for over 200 years, not since Jeroboam I set up the golden calf there. Hosea calls it Beth-aven instead. The "House of vanity; i.e., idols. The house of iniquity." (Smith and Cornwall 1998, 38)

When Assyria moves into Israel, they will take anything of value with them, including the golden calf in both locations. "The professional priests who have made a living out of idolatrous religion will grieve. The idol was evidently quite gorgeous to look at. There were people who 'rejoiced over its splendour', but the god will be exiled just as will the people. He will become a novelty in the collection of the king of Assyria, an antique for his friends to admire." (Eaton 1996, 152)

The people will know that when that takes place, the day of God's judgement has truly arrived. Everything will be seen for what it really is to include the shame of the northern kingdom for following false gods.

If your god can be taken prisoner and hauled off to Assyria, then it was a no god. Those images which had been their pride and joy, are now their shame as they walk off to Nineveh into captivity. How is that calf worship working for you now?

Hosea 10:7–8

"Samaria will be destroyed with her king, Like a twig on the surface of the water. Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; Thorns and thistles will grow on their altars; Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on us!" (NASB 2020)

When the King is gone, so is the nation. The King will be swept away just like a twig floating on the water. It happens with little or no effort on the part of the stream, which is a picture of the Assyrian military. And with the King, goes the nation, destroyed.

Those high places which had been used for worship – gone. As we have already seen, a place of thorns and thistles. No longer usable for the idol worship they had been dedicated to. A foreign army will complete for them that which they had failed to complete when they first entered the land under Joshua.

Deuteronomy 12:2–3

"With destruction you shall destroy all the places in which they serve their gods, in that place that you are taking possession of it, on the high mountains and on the dunes and under the leafy trees. And you shall destroy their altars and break their pillars, and you shall cut down their sacred groves and burn their carved gods with fire, and you shall destroy their name from that place." (Lexham Press 2020, Deut 12:2-3)

As Assyria does this, a picture that is repeated later during the Tribulation, is presented to us.

Hosea 10:8b

“...Then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!”” (NASB 2020)

Those unbelievers who are in the land, cry out with the same cry that unbelievers will cry out as Jesus returns. Those in Israel are calling for the mountains to fall on them to hide them from the Assyrian, where the followers of “the Assyrian” at the end of the age, will make the same cry.

Revelation 6:15–17

“Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”” (ESV)

Hosea refers again to the sin at Gibeah, implying that the northern kingdom never stopped engaging in actions such as that.

Hosea 10:9–10

“Since the days of Gibeah you have sinned, Israel; There they stand! Will the battle against the sons of injustice not overtake them in Gibeah? When it is My desire, I will discipline them; And the peoples will be gathered against them When they are bound for their double guilt.” (NASB 2020)

God will discipline His people at the time and place He chooses to do so.

The meaning is, that since the days of Gibeah the Israelites persist in the same sin as the Gibeahites; but whereas those sinners were punished and destroyed by the war, the ten tribes still live on in the same sin without having been destroyed by any similar war. Jehovah will now chastise them for it. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 86)

The why is made clear to Israel, they are being bound for double guilt. The apostasy from YAHWEH, and the rejection of God’s king, the Davidic line.

We know from what we read in Zechariah 13:9 and Hosea 3:5, that when they again seek YAHWEH and David their King in the person of Messiah, the nation will be wholly restored at the end of the Tribulation. Hosea 3:5 “Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.” (NASB 2020)

Hosea 10:11

“Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to thresh, And I passed over her lovely neck; I will harness Ephraim, Judah will plow, Jacob will harrow for himself.” (NASB 2020)

Ephraim, Judah, and Jacob owe their identity to YHWH. Past favor has given way to the need for stronger guidance. Verse 11 is not the voice of imminent judgment, however. It is the language of past identity and future task. (Dearman 2010, 271)

There is still a future for Israel, and even though we see Judah once again coming into the picture implying that they too will be subject to similar judgement, God has a future for His people.

How is a future achievable though where stronger guidance through the Holy Spirit is available in light of what we have had described to us up to this point in Hosea?

The solution comes in the next verse.

Hosea 10:12

“Sow for yourselves, with a view to righteousness; Harvest in accordance with kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes and rains righteousness on you.” (NASB 2020)

Sowing and reaping come up again. Before Israel was sowing the wind and reaping tornados, destruction. God’s grace pops up telling them what it is that will provide a future for the nation, a change in what it is they are planting.

Three things must happen for God to pour out His blessing once again on His people.

1. Sowing with an aim for righteousness.
 - a. Faith in moving forward and doing so
 - b. Depending on God’s grace for the results
 - c. Being faithful to His word rather than rebelling to His word
 - d. Allowing His grace and obedience to His word to lead them forward by faith
2. Reaping a harvest with kindness
 - a. This means selfishness is a past behavior
 - b. The harvest will be that of behaviors in alignment to what obedience brings
 - c. If you sow based on what pleases God, you will reap what pleases God
 - d. The goal is loving obedience, loving kindness, hesed.
 - e. The goal we would understand as NT believers is in Galatians 5:22–24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Now those who belong to the Messiah Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires.” (ISV)
3. Break apart the current sinful practices.
 - a. “Hosea uses a word twice that means “break up, freshly till.” A custom is behind his point. Break up the clods of dirt that have been overturned in plowing but are chunky and hard, unfit as yet for sowing. The aim is to soften soil, and smooth and level out a field (Isa. 28:25). The prophet’s words are, literally, “till (verb) your untilled ground (noun),” meaning the “soil” in a figurative sense, the lives out of which new, good spiritual fruit can come.” (Rosscup 2008, 1302)

God is telling His people what they need to do.

Here is the thing, what God is telling His people Israel, is also what He us as the church today.

We live in a culture, just like Israel, that is toxic. The temptation to conform to the culture hits us in-between the eyes multiple times every day. Is it tough to live with a Biblical worldview? Yes, it is.

But here, Hosea lets us know it is necessary and something that can be reached with some action on our part.

We must stop excusing ourselves for our sin and instead confess it.

1 John 1:5–10

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” (NASB 2020)

We must break up our uncultivated ground. Once we were fruitful for the Lord, but sin crept in, and we began to neglect some of the ground we had turned over to Him. Soon, it became un-watered by our

neglecting the word and weeds sprouted up. We would simply avoid walking there so we would not have to look at the mess that was being allowed to grow.

Hosea says to us, break it up and make it cultivatable again. In other words, as believers, we need to confess our sins and repent. When we do that, we expose them to the light and kill off those things which are poisonous weeds.

For some in Israel, they were unbelievers, and all the ground needed to be broken up. Jesus does that for us. He doesn't say for us to take of that before coming to Him, He will handle it for us if we but give Him the opportunity. But as with Israel, the time to do so is now.

2 Corinthians 6:2

"Hear what God says: "When the time came for me to show you favour I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you." Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favour; today is the day to be saved!" (GNB)

Hosea has simply reiterated what it is the Lord has already told Israel.

Time is up.

For those of us living today, in the last hours of the last days, we see the same warning. Time is up.

The warning has been issued and events we see today are shadows of events about to take place after His church has been removed.

The solution is simple, take advantage of the currently outstanding offer.

Romans 10:9–10

"If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved." (GNB)

Seeking God's face is done by praying to Him. The prayer is simple.

Lord, forgive me, I agree with you that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sin and then rose from the dead. Jesus be the Lord of my life.

That's it. It is no more complicated than that.

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

I

Israel though made a decision that is not consistent with sowing righteousness.

Hosea 10:13–15

"You have plowed wickedness, you have harvested injustice, You have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your way, in your many warriors, An uproar will arise among your people, And all your fortresses will be destroyed, As Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle, When mothers were slaughtered with their children. So it will be done to you at Bethel because of your great wickedness. At dawn the king of Israel will be completely destroyed." (NASB 2020)

Israel opted to continue in their sin. They did not plow righteousness but instead trusted in themselves and their military.

Because of that misdirected trust and lack of faithfulness to YAHWEH, He will deal with the object of their trust, the military, and their fortresses. A comparison is provided but it is one we have no information on other than what is related here by Hosea.

The destruction coming to Israel will be like one which took place earlier in Beth-arbel when all of the women and children were slaughtered. The object lesson is simple, the Northern kingdom will suffer the same fate and the fall of their King would signal the complete capitulation and end of Israel.

This also duplicates what takes place to those who support the Beast in Revelation. In both cases, those who call upon the mountains to fall on them suffer a rapid judgement at the hands of the Lord.

So it is that the king of Israel (NB the use of the official title) will, as in v. 7a, be swept away to oblivion. The phrase 'at dawn' conveys the immediacy and speed with which he will meet his fate. (Macintosh 1997, 433-434)

Israel was in their last days of independence and were about to go into exile. When the end came, it came quickly.

We are in the last days Jesus discussed in Matthew 24 and the events He related are all happening. The convergence of the various events is what is astounding. The time is short and the need to respond to His invitation has never been more urgent.

Works Cited

- Barna, Geroge. 2020. "Is the Bible True? CRC Survey Shows America's Distrust of the Bible Undermines Its Worldview." *Arizona Christina University Cultural Research Center*. April 7. Accessed May 17, 2022. https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CRC-AWVI-2020-Release-02_Faith-and-Worldview-1.pdf.
- Boice, James Montgomery. 2002. *The Minor Prophets: An Expositional Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Bolen, Todd. 2012. "Dan high place and Jordan headwaters." *Pictorial Library of Bible Lands Reivsed & Expanded. Galilee and the North, Volume 1*. Prod. Todd Boen.
- Bolen, Todd. 2012. "Gezer standing stones." *Pictorial Librayr of Bible Lands Revised & Expanded, Judah and the Dead Sea, Volume 4*. Prod. Todd Bolen.
- Brown, Francis, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs. 1977. *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Dearman, J. Andrew. 2010. *the Book of Hosea, The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Eaton, Michael A. 1996. *Hosea, Focus on the Bible Commentary*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus.
- Henry, Matthew. 1994. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- Hubbard, David A. 1989. *Hosea: An Introduction and Commentary, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Vol. 24. Downers Gorge, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Keil, Carl Friedrich, and Franz Delitzsch. 1996. *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Vol. 10. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- Lexham Press. 2020. *The Lexham English Septuagint*. Second Edition. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Macintosh, A. A. 1997. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Hosea, International Critical Commentary*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark International.
- Mackay, John L. 2012. *Hosea: A Mentor Commentary, Mentor Commentaries*. Ross-shire: Mentor.
- McGee, J. Vernon. 1997. *Thru the Bible Commentary*. Electronic Edition. Vol. 3. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
- Rosscup, James E. 2008. *An Exposition on Prayer in the Bible: Igniting the Fuel to Flame Our Communication with God*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Smith, Stelman, and Judson Cornwall. 1998. *The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names*. North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.
- Tanner, Beth. 2014. "Book Three of the Psalter: Psalms 73-89." In *The Book of Psalms, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, edited by E. J. Young, R. K. Harrison and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Wolff, Hans Walter. 1974. *Hosea; A Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Hosea, Hermeneia- a Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press.