

## God's Arraignment of His People

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Church Baptism Sun 7/22 - 2 classes offered, 1 needed. *Today at 11:30am, This Wed after service, in Mercy Rm.*
- B. Slide3 VBS - July 16-20, Free, children 1st-5th grades. Sign up Today
- C. Slide4 Middle School Camp - July 29-Aug1st. Green Valley Lake. Theme Original. Sign up Today
- D. Slide5 Priceless Movie Night - Sunday 7/15, 5pm in sanctuary. *Children at Risk*
- E. We have 2 job openings. *Afternoon Church Receptionist and Printshop assistant*, the schedule is Monday thru Friday from 12 noon to 4:30pm.
  - 1. Interested, email your resume to [hjasso@calvarymurrieta.com](mailto:hjasso@calvarymurrieta.com).

### II. Slide6 Intro: God's Arraignment of His People *None so deaf as those who will not hear.* Matthew Henry

- A. No doubt all the neighbors talked about Gomer's sins and pointed an accusing finger at her. But now Hosea points a finger at them and reveals their sins. (wiersbe)
- B. The style now changes from ch's.1-3, which focused on *Hosea and his family* as symbolic of Israel.
  - 1. The rest of the book is *prophetic poetry* condemning Israel for *wandering away from Yahweh, warning of the coming judgment, and calling Israel to repent.*
  - 2. The *prophetic indictment* centers on *economic inequalities, injustice, oppression, and idol worship.* [yes, it sounds just like our world today]
- C. Yahweh brings a *formal legal indictment* against Israel for its general breakdown in morality and for losing all knowledge of God.
  - 1. The indictment focuses on **the priests'** failure to lead Israel in appropriately following Yahweh's Law.
- D. The first ruler of the Northern Kingdom, *Jeroboam I*, had set up *a false worship system that counterfeited the sacrifices, the priesthood, the worship center, and the annual worship festivals* established in God's Law.
  - 1. **Each ruler of Israel** continued this evil, and some *actively promoted idolatry.*

2. **The kings** also promoted *a materialistic life*. Thus Hosea was right when he charged **Israel's rulers**, saying, *All their leaders are rebellious*. 9:15
- E. **Slide7 Here** we have a **Court Scene** where God seems to play: *the Bailiff, Plaintiff, Witness, Prosecuting Attorney, & Judge*.
  1. Our language here is *technical & legal*.
  2. If you are the *defendant*, the *prosecution* must bring an *accusation or indictment* against you. The *prosecution* must bring *facts & truth* into the court so either you can be expunged, exonerated or as here...**be found guilty**.

### III. Slide8a **ISRAEL WARNED (1-14)**

- A. **Slide8b MORAL DEPRAVITY (1,2)**
- B. **Order in the court (1) - *Hear the word of the Lord***.
  1. God starts off by being the **Bailiff**, calling the court to order.
- C. **Charges brought:** Next **the Lord** dons His *lawyer's gown* & brings a charge (*lit. a legal complaint*) *against* the children of Israel.
- D. **The opening indictments:** *no* truth (*faithfulness*), *no* mercy (*love*) & *no* *knowledge of God*. See God's heart on this also in 6:6.
  1. Jesus quotes 6:6 in Mt.9:13 *Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices. For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners*.
    - a) Jesus was saying this to *men who thought* they knew everything.
    - b) *Go learn to have mercy towards sinners, to the spiritually needy. Which is a work more pleasing to God than a mere formality of religious duties or the most expensive sacrifice w/no concern for others. [i.e. the heart of law, not letter]*
    - c) *Jesus came to save real sinners. He came to deal not w/our merits, but our demerits*.
  2. The *knowledge of God* is important because it produces behavior that *emulates/mirrors/copies God*.
- E. **Wait!** These charges also are brought before *the U.S., before California, before Murrieta, before all the human race*. In all ages. In all cultures. And just like Romans 1...
  1. God revealed Himself. Man turned from this revelation. Wrath is poured out.

F. (2) He lists violations of the 10 commandments. [*many* infractions against them]

G. Slide8c **DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT** (3)

H. Here the moral depravity of **men** causes physical damage of *all* other creatures.

I. **The land mourns** - the curses of the covenant affected **the entire land**, and by extension, **all life** dependent on that land.

1. In Hosea's time, as now, human **sin & selfishness** reap consequences in the natural world. We have been improving our understanding of our **ecosystems & advancing our technology** which has made us better stewards of God's backyard. But we have a long way to go.

a) We must balance between protecting the environment & human use.

J. Slide8d **DEBASEMENT OF LEADERSHIP** (4-9)

K. Speaking particularly to *religious leadership* here, especially her **priests & prophets**.

1. Remember...this was **not** a time of *religion drying up*, **no**, *religious services were popular*. But the people were being *destroyed for lack of true spiritual knowledge*.

2. Boice said, *Godlessness is not incompatible with religion. In fact it goes along w/it nicely*.

3. When knowledge of the true God is refused, *false gods move in* to take the *true God's*, rightful place.

a) True religion is replaced by false religion. Godliness is replaced by superstition.

L. (5) **Stumble in the day - in the day?** *I understand the night but the day...yes, they have no God GPS anymore.*

M. (6) **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge** - The **priests** were responsible for teaching the Law to the people.

1. **Q:** What is the cause of this depravity? **A:** The rejection of the knowledge of God. [*doesn't mean* the accumulation of facts]

2. **GPS** (Global Positioning System) 33 satellites, unobstructed line of sight to 4 or more GPS satellites to triangulate your position. The **receiver** can determine latitude, longitude & altitude. Triangulates position w/in 15'. It often helps you get

from one location to another. **But**...you must do **2 things**: **believe the information & act upon it**.

- a) Some have spiritually called this **God's Positioning System**. **3** that work as **1** to triangulate your **exact position** & helps you get from one location to another. It will advise you, guide you, lead you in the **direction & path** that **He** deems best for you.

N. (9) **Like people, like priest** - we are reminded *it is not what we teach, but what we are that really affects others*.

#### O. **Slide8e DETERIORATION, PERSONAL EMPTINESS** (10-12)

P. (10) They'll eat **but** nothing will satisfy them.

Q. **They shall commit harlotry, but not increase** - The prophet draws on the metaphor of *idol-worship as adultery*: **The people will not receive any benefit from their infidelity**.

R. **Q: Remember the shallow reasons why Gomer left Hosea?**

1. **A: For things & pleasure** (2:5b)

2. We can sum these **lures** w/4 things: **Food, sex, wealth, & religion**.

a) **The world says**, *hey, what else can one want?*

b) **God says**, there's nothing wrong with these **if** they are in their proper proportion/place/in God's boundaries.

(1) **But with food** often our culture rushes to gluttony & waste.

(2) **Regarding sex** they speed more & more toward *perversion*.

(3) **With money** no amount ever seems to be enough.

(4) **As per religion**, everyone seems to be *religious in some form...they've concocted*.

#### S. **Slide8f DESTRUCTION OF A NATION** (13,14)

T. Mesopotamian culture distinguished between *commercial prostitution* and *temple prostitution*.

U. (14) **I will not punish your...** - God won't even bother...*they will be their own worst punishment*. Isn't *STD's* in that category?

V. **Here we hit the bottom of their slippery slope** (**or**...*the tree at the bottom of the toboggan run*)

1. It starts with individuals making *shipwreck* of **their lives**. Then **families**, then **communities**, then ultimately **the nation** is sunk. (hmm sounds like our VBS theme)
2. Even w/in Christendom. **Husbands & wives** split up. **Kids** are abandoned. They forsake their **church** out of embarrassment or guilt. They **move** out of town for a *new start*. Soon **the nation** is overwhelmed by this phenomena.

W. Slide9a See example of this progression in Ps.128. (it shows the opposite)

1. *How joyful are **those** who fear the Lord - all who follow his ways. 2 You will enjoy the fruit of your **labor**. How joyful and prosperous you will be. 3 **Your wife** will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. **Your children** will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table. 4 That is the Lord's blessing for those who fear him. 5 May the Lord continually bless you from **Zion**. May you see **Jerusalem** prosper as long as you live. 6 May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. May **Israel** have peace.*
2. **Zion** - The man's **Neighborhood** - A **family** that is a **blessing** produces better neighborhoods.
3. **Jerusalem** - The man's **City** - A better **neighborhood** produces better **cities**
4. Slide9b **Israel** - The man's **Nation** - A better **city** produces a better **nation**
  - a) The success of our **Country** depends upon the success of our **Cities**.  
The success of our **Cities** depends upon the success of our **Neighborhoods**.  
The success of our **Neighborhoods** depends upon the success of our **Families**.  
The success of our **Families** depends upon the **Leaders** of our homes.
5. Thomas Jefferson said, *Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just.*
6. Main point in this chapter: *Unfaithfulness to God brings destruction to a society*

#### IV. Slide10a **JUDAH WARNED (15-19)**

- A. Slide10b **DANGER OF DOING THE SAME (15-19)**
- B. (15) Why does God keep using that word *Harlotry*? (11 x's) well that's what **idolatry** really is. It's cheating on God with *someone* or *something* else.



- C. **Gilgal** – Amazing, the site of the 1st memorial built to the Lord when they just crossed the Jordan. **There Joshua erected a 12 stone memorial to what God had done.** And now, Gilgal had been degraded to a place for sin.
- D. **Beth Aven** (house of *Idolatry*) - he may be making an *indirect and derogatory* reference to the Israelite shrine at *Bethel*. Play off of **Bethel**/house of God - *house of idolatry*.
- E. (16) **Stubbornness** – What are some of the results from your stubbornness?
1. *The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.* Henry Ward Beecher
- F. **Slide10c** (17-19 NLT) 17 *Leave Israel alone, because she is married to idolatry.* 18 *When the rulers of Israel finish their drinking, off they go to find some prostitutes. They love shame more than honor.* 19 *So a mighty wind will sweep them away. Their sacrifices to idols will bring them shame.*
- G. **Ephraim is Joined to idols** - joined to tightly they can't give them up.
1. What would you name in your life that is the same?
- H. **Ephraim** (37x's) - **Jacob**/aka Israel adopted **Ephraim** in Gen 48:5 and his brother *Manasseh*, and allotted them full status among his sons. (remember hand swircheroo in Egypt)
- I. **Slide10d Let him alone** – Jesus uses these same words in Mt.15:14 *Then His disciples came and said to Him, Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?* Jesus responded, **Let them alone.** *They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.*
1. Jeremiah 15:1 **Then the Lord said to me, Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth.**
    - a) God had judged them **in** the land (Judges), **now from** the land.
    - b) **At critical times in Jewish history Moses & Samuel interceded & God heard & answered.** *I don't care who is interceding for them...my mind is made up!*
    - c) These are 2 things you never want to hear God say...**Get out of my sight & Go away.** Or, **Depart from me** (Mt.7)
      - (1) You can take all you want from this life...but plan on *paying* in the end.
      - (2) **Slide10e Or**, you can choose to *loose your life* and then you'll *truly find it!*

2. In Mt.8:34 after Jesus healed the demoniacs (heard of swine incident) the story ends w/*the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.*

a) Jesus indulges man's wishes. He immediately left & *didn't return.*

J. (19) *The Gavel comes down.* NLT *So a mighty wind will sweep them away. Their sacrifices to idols will bring them shame.*

1. *Slide11* Ps.89:14 ***Righteousness & justice are the foundation of Your throne***