

Hosea
Chapter 7:9-16
9/27/20

We have reached the point where Israel, the Northern Kingdom, is about to go into captivity.

VS 9-11 – ⁹ *Foreigners consume his strength, but he does not notice. Even his hair is streaked with gray, but he does not notice.* ¹⁰ *Israel's arrogance testifies against them, yet they do not return to the LORD their God, and for all this, they do not seek Him.* ¹¹ *So Ephraim has become like a silly, senseless dove; they call to Egypt, and they go to Assyria.*

- Dr. McGee says this is an interesting illustration. As a hunter, he knows that if a dove has a nest nearby with eggs or little ones in it, she will act as if she has a broken wing and actually let you get very close to her.
- She tries to lure you away from her nest. She actually puts herself in harms way to protect her young. However, her actions alert the hunter to a nest close by.
- David Levy on the other hand says that when a predator comes close a dove will flutter back and forth, confused about what to do to ward off danger. He says the dove is without sense and lacks the ability to make a rational choice regarding the correct action to take.
- Both are good explanations. I tend to agree more with the hunter merely because I believe God put more sense into the dove than to act the way described. After all, the thing can fly!
- The point however, is that Israel lacked the knowledge to make a rational choice. Instead of calling on God for assistance, it irrationally called on heathen nations for help.
- While Israel flitted back and forth, making alliances with Assyria and Egypt, God intervened in judgement.

Verse 12 – *As they are going, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like birds of the sky. I will discipline them in accordance with the news that reaches their assembly.*

- Dr. McGee tells a short story here as an illustration. As a boy he would take a box and prop up one end, and put corn under it. He would have the corn lead right into the box. Then he would hide in the barn and watch. Doves would come after the corn and when they followed the corn trail right into the box, he would pull the string and bring the box down on top of his prey. Silly critters. That's what God is saying here. He will spread His net upon them. They will be caught. It reminds me of the dove in Noah's story; no place to rest her feet; no place of safety.
- The threat of judgement was followed by the LORD'S announcement of destruction:
Verse 13 – *Woe to them, for they fled from Me; destruction to them, for they rebelled against Me! Though I want to redeem them, they speak lies against Me.*
- In the past, God had delivered Israel from many enemies bent on destroying them.
- He was ready to deliver Israel again if she would but call upon HIM for help.
- Instead she looked to other nations; other gods to deliver her.

- Worse yet, Israel had lied about God's ability, power and willingness to protect them. Thus, God said, "Destruction to them!" A little history is needed here so I will quote from David Levy's book.
 - "During the reign of King Menahem (752-742 ^{B.C.}), the Assyrians, led by Tiglath-Pileser 111, began moving west to enlarge their holdings. In the process, they threatened the northern kingdom. Menahem knuckled under to the demands of Tiglath-Pileser and paid enormous tribute to the Assyrian leader. Later, Israel's King Pekah joined Syria with plans to plunder Judah. At Judah's request, Assyria intervened on Judah's behalf, and Tiglath-Pileser seized the northern Kingdom of Israel in 733 ^{B.C.} (See our chart of kings)
- Verse 14** – *They do not cry to Me from their hearts; rather, they wail on their beds, for grain and wine; they turn away from Me.*
- Now we see where the problem really lays. *They do not cry from their hearts!*
 - When the Assyrians invaded Israel, they destroyed the crops used for food and drink. In the midst of its calamity, *Israel did not cry out to Me with their heart when they wailed upon their beds.*
 - The Israelites approached the living God in the same manner they approached Baal. They howled over the loss of their crops and tried to persuade God to help them by cutting themselves as did Baal worshipers (1Kings 18:28) something strictly prohibited by Mosaic Law (Duet. 14:1).
- Verse 15** – *I trained and strengthened their arms, but they plot evil against Me.*
- Three different words from three different Bibles show the depth of what is being said. One says, *bound them and strengthen their arms*
 - Another says, *trained and strengthened their arms*
 - And the third says, *disciplined and strengthened their arms*
 - Bound (or taught), trained, disciplined and strengthened. He taught them, He trained them, He disciplined them and He strengthened them.
 - In His goodness, God abundantly equipped them with everything they needed to accomplish what God intended for them.
 - But He received no gratitude and the verse says, *they plot evil against Me!*
 - David Levy says that Israel treated God as the enemy and plotted against Him. I suppose that in turning to the enemy for help it was to God as if they were plotting against Him. (You're either for me or against me) so to speak.
 - Israel's extreme hostility is all the more horrifying when compared to God's loving grace.
- Verse 16** – *They turn, but not to what is above; they are like a faulty bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because of the cursing of their tongue. They will be ridiculed for this in the land of Egypt.*
- Israel took confidence in its ability in the past to overcome its enemies with out God's help. But God's help has been withheld this time and Israel instead of repenting turned TO their enemies for help.
 - As a result, their efforts, like a faulty bow, failed miserably.
 - When Tiglath-Pileser finally captured the Northern kingdom, he set up Hoshea (not Hosea) as King of Samaria. Hoshea acknowledged Assyrian rule for a time but eventually

stopped paying tribute and sought an alliance with Egypt in an attempt to overthrow Assyrian control.

- The rebellion led to a three-year siege by the Assyrians, ending with the captivity of the Northern Kingdom again in 722 B.C. (2Kings 17:3-4) That was the end of the Northern Kingdom. Verse 16 ends with *they will be ridiculed for this in the land of Egypt.*
- He is saying that Egypt will begin to mock them and ridicule them for the way they acted.
- Think back to the times God reprimanded their actions. When He was going to kill all the Hebrew children for their making of a golden calf, Moses said in essence, “the Egyptians will think our God is not strong enough to lead us.” So, God stayed His hand against them.
- When Abraham and Lot were constantly arguing, Abraham said, “let’s not act like this; in front of these foreign peoples.”
- Egypt of all places knew of God’s great power and the history of the Hebrews and how God had brought them out of Egypt. Now they would be saying, “Where is the God who delivered you before?!” They will mock and ridicule.

Next week chapter 8.