

## HOSEA

### Chapter Eight

10/11/20

We saw in chapter seven that during the reign of King Menahem (4th from the last king, 752-742 BC) that the Assyrians, led by Tiglath-Pileser 111, began moving west to enlarge their holdings. Menahem paid large tribute to him for some time. Two kings later, King Pekah joined with the Syrians to overthrow Judah. Judah went to the Assyrians for help and they seized the Northern Kingdom in 733 BC.

Tiglath-Pileser set up Hoshea as King over Samaria. Hoshea acknowledged Assyrian rule for a while but like the kings before him began to greatly resent the tribute. Eventually they rebelled. This led to a three-year siege by the Assyrians ending with the captivity of the Northern Kingdom again in 722 BC and that was the end of the Northern Kingdom. No more kings.

Chapter seven ends with...*they will be ridiculed for this in the land of Egypt.*

Meaning that their humility will be complete when Egypt is laughing because the God who had delivered them in the days of old could no longer help them.

Chapter eight is going to fill in some details from, before the end of the kingdom.

#### **Read chapter 8**

**Vs 1 – 3** <sup>1</sup> *Put the horn to your mouth! One like an eagle comes against the house of the LORD, because they transgress My covenant and rebel against My law.* <sup>2</sup> *Israel cries out to Me: My god we know you!* <sup>3</sup> *Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him.*

- The house of the LORD does not refer to the Temple in Jerusalem but to the northern tribes of Israel.
- In Biblical days the way they warned the city, or the kingdom, was to blow a trumpet from a high place. So, God is telling Hosea to blow the trumpet! Prepare for invasion! The mighty Assyrian army is going to invade!
- The Assyrians would soon swoop down on Israel like eagles snatching their prey. Their very method of attack; swift and brutal, very aptly is symbolized by eagles.
- God had raised up Assyria to judge Israel, fulfilling Moses prophecy, *The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies. Deut. 28:49*
- Israel had done their worst. They transgressed God's covenant and His law. In the last 7 chapters, Hosea detailed how Israel had committed gross and abominable sins.

- Although the nation had many opportunities to repent, it continued to sin and rebel against God's love and mercy.
- (v2) When judgement finally began to fall on them, the people hypocritically cried, *My God, we know you!* The nation is saying "We are your people God, so deliver us from the coming judgement." Yet the actions, immorality, idolatry, of the nation have long proven that it neither knew the LORD nor desired to practice His law.
- Remember what God said in earlier chapters, in essence, "You are not my wife" and "you are not my people" and "you are not my son".
- Israel's rejection of God's mercy and love has sealed their fate. The Assyrian invasion was inevitable.
- This is a reminder to us that there is a line that we can cross if we're not careful.

**VS 4-6** <sup>4</sup> *They have installed kings, but not through Me. They have appointed leaders but without My approval. They make their silver and gold into idols for themselves for their own destruction.* <sup>5</sup> *Your calf-idol is rejected, Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?* <sup>6</sup> *For this thing is from Israel-a craftsman made it, and it is not God. The calf of Samaria will be smashed to bits!*

- Even in its revolt against King Rehoboam, Solomon's son, Israel failed to seek God's guidance – ten tribes split off and Jeroboam led a rebellion.
- God had said that the line of David was to rule over Israel.
- During the time of the divided kingdom not one king from the Northern Kingdom was chosen by the will of God.
- These kings never attempted in any way to bring the people into the worship of God. Instead they all went into idolatry.
- Jeroboam set up those two golden calves at the very beginning. One in Samaria and one in Bethel. He did that to keep the people from returning to Jerusalem and the Temple for worship.
- This corrupt religious system, made up of gold and silver idols, instituted Baal worship. The nation was founded on corruption and greed. It was doomed from the start.

**VS 7-10** <sup>7</sup> *Indeed, they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. There is no standing grain; what sprouts fails to yield flour. Even if they did, foreigners would swallow it up.* <sup>8</sup> *Israel is swallowed up! Now they are among the nations like discarded pottery.* <sup>9</sup> *For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey going off on its own. Ephraim has paid for love.*

<sup>10</sup> *Even though they hire lovers among the nations, I will now round them up, and they will begin to decrease in number under the burden of the king and leaders.*

- Hosea, using metaphors again, says, *they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.*
- Wind, futile and fickle, can quickly turn into a whirlwind to bring destruction. Israel's idolatry had brought a whirlwind of destruction from the Assyrian Army.
- Their days of successful harvests were over. Either the crops wouldn't grow or if they did, others would gather and enjoy them.
- Verse 8 tells us that Israel is swallowed up. They are scattered among the nations (Gentiles in the KJ).
- They were never lost, those ten tribes, just scattered among the nations.
- When Assyria swallowed up Israel in 722 BC, they turned it into a province, sapping its power, its resources and its prosperity by requiring great amounts of tribute from them.
- Neighboring nations considered Israel nothing but a cheap, worthless clay pot to be cast aside.
- In verse 9. Hosea compared Israel's alliance with Assyria to that of a wild donkey and a prostitute.
- Israel's stubborn, self-willed independence embarked on a solitary course to carve out its destiny without consulting God.
- Instead of being faithful to God (Israel's husband) the nation prostituted itself to the Gentiles by bribing the heathen Assyrians. In return, Israel hoped to maintain its political power and prestige and expected Assyria to protect it from God's judgement.
- Where as a prostitute usually receives payment for her services, Israel was so unwanted that it has to pay Assyria!
- Verse 10 points out that all of Israel's attempts to protect itself from God's judgements were futile at the least.
- God cut off all the help from Assyria and Egypt and hemmed the nation in for judgement.
- God Ironically used *the kings of princes* (KJ) the very nation from whom Israel sought help as His rod of correction.

**Verse 11** *When Ephraim multiplied his altars for sin, they became his altars for sinning.*

- God's punishment was indeed justified because Israel had erected many altars to idols. Particularly to the Canaanite fertility deity Baal.
- The altars that Ephraim erected were *alters for sin*.
- With every altar built, Israel multiplied its sin, plunging the nation deeper and deeper into iniquity and guilt.

**VS 12-14** <sup>12</sup> *Though I were to write out for him ten thousand points of My law, they would be regarded as something alien.* <sup>13</sup> *Though the offer sacrificial gifts and eat the flesh, the LORD does not accept them. Now He will remember their guilt and punish their sins; they will return to Egypt.* <sup>14</sup> *Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; Judah has also multiplied fortified cities. I will send fire on their cities, and it will consume their citadels.*

- God had laid out the ceremonial, civil and moral law that revealed how to walk before the LORD.
- Their law laid out numerous directions, precepts, and prohibitions that were so explicit, comprehensive, and minute in detail that Israel could not help but know what God demanded in true worship. Yet they treated the law like an alien that had no place in their thoughts.
- In verse 13 we see the priests did their duties not to please God or to make amends for sin, but for personal gain.
- The word Egypt here symbolizes exile, bondage, slavery, oppression, toil and sorrow.
- The Israelites would not literally return to Egypt, but would suffer the same conditions they experienced in Egypt before Moses came to lead them to freedom.
- Egypt represents the new exile and bondage Israel would endure under Assyria.
- Hosea states both the nature of Israel's and Judah's sins and the source of their suffering in verse 14.
- God was Israel's salvation and security.
- How could the nation forget its maker?!
- Moses had warned that if Israel forgot God, it would perish. Judah too, will have a day of reckoning.
- And we, the church, must also always remember that we reap what we sow. And sometimes we reap more than we sow.

Next week Chapter 9

