

II. ALL THIS – DESPITE GOD’S LOVE

IDOLATRY

Hosea 4: ¹²My people consult a piece of wood, *forsaking their God*.

Hosea 13: ² they keep on sinning and *making a cast image* for themselves, idols of silver made according to their understanding, all of them the work of artisans. “Sacrifice to these,” they say.

FORGETTING GOD’S POWER

Hosea 10: ¹³You have *trusted in your (own) power* and in the multitude of your warriors

INJUSTICE AND IMMORALITY FLOW FROM THE TOP DOWN

Hosea 5: ¹⁰The **princes of Judah** have become like those who remove the landmark (*changing property boundaries by deceit*)

Hosea 6: ⁹As *robbers* lie in wait for someone, so (even) **the priests** are banded together; *they murder* on the road to Shechem, they commit a monstrous crime.

MISPLACED “HEAT”

Hosea 5:

⁴They are all **adulterers**; they are *like a heated oven*,

⁵On the day of our king the officials became sick with **the heat of wine**;

⁶For they are kindled like an oven, their heart burns within them; all night **their anger smolders**; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

DESIRING TO BE LIKE THE MAJORITY CULTURE

Hosea 7: ⁸Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; ⁹Foreigners devour his strength, but he does not know it;

THE LURE & CORRUPTION OF WEALTH

Hosea 12: ⁷(Israel is like) a trader, in whose hands are false balances, & who loves to oppress. ⁸(who says), “Ah, I am rich, I have gained wealth for myself; in all of my gain no offense has been found in me that would be sin.”

Hosea 10: Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased the more altars he built; as his country improved, (instead of worshipping God he improved his pillars. (*places of false worship!*))

NO REMEMBERING OR TURNING TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE

Hosea 7: ⁷All their **kings** have fallen; *none of them calls upon me*. ¹⁴They *do not cry to me from the heart*,

Hosea 11: When Israel was a child, *I loved him*, and out of Egypt I called my son. ²*The more I called them, the more they went from me*; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. They did not know that I was the one who healed them.

Hosea 13: ⁴Yet *I have been the Lord your God* ever since the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. ⁵It was I who fed you in the wilderness, in the land of drought.

THE FINAL INDICTMENT

Hosea 13: ⁶When I fed them, they were satisfied; *they were satisfied, and [YET] their heart was proud; & they forgot me*.

So . . .

III. WHAT’S NEXT?

What’s God’s response to all of this?

Hosea tells us that in the case of Israel IT’S . . . JUDGMENT

- Israel will reap what it sows
- There will be no more protection from the violence of the age

Reap What is Sown

Hosea 4: ⁹And it shall be like-people-like-priest; I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds. ¹⁰They shall eat, but not be satisfied they shall play the whore (be idolaters), but not multiply; because they have forsaken the Lord

Hosea 5: ⁶With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.

Hosea 9: ²Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them. ¹⁶Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit.

Exile

Hosea 9: ³They shall not remain in the land of the Lord; *but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and in Assyria they shall eat unclean food*.

¹⁵*Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house*. I will love them no more; all their **officials** are rebels. ¹⁷Because they have not listened to him, my God will reject them; they shall become wanderers among the nations.

The Just Anger of God

Hosea 13: ⁷So I will become like a lion to them, like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. ⁹I will destroy you, O Israel; who can help you? ¹⁰Where now is your king, that he may save you? Where in all your cities are your rulers, of whom you said, “Give me a king and rulers”? ¹⁴Compassion is hidden from my eyes. ¹⁶Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword, their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

Ouch . . . God is mad . . . BUT

IV. IS THIS WHAT GOD WANTS? Judgment? Disaster?

No!!! **What God Wants Is His People Back!!**

- **KEY:** Hosea 6 & Hosea 14 (the last chapter)

Hosea 6:1-3 --

¹“Come, let us return to the Lord;

for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

²After two days he will revive us;

on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

³Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Hosea 14: 1-7

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,

for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

²Take words with you and return to the Lord; say to him, “Take away all guilt; accept that which is good, and we will offer the fruit of our lips.

³Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses;

we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands.

In you the orphan finds mercy.

⁴I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. ⁵I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily, he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon. ⁶His shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.

⁷They shall again live beneath my shadow,

they shall flourish as a garden;

they shall blossom like the vine,

their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

This is God’s desire

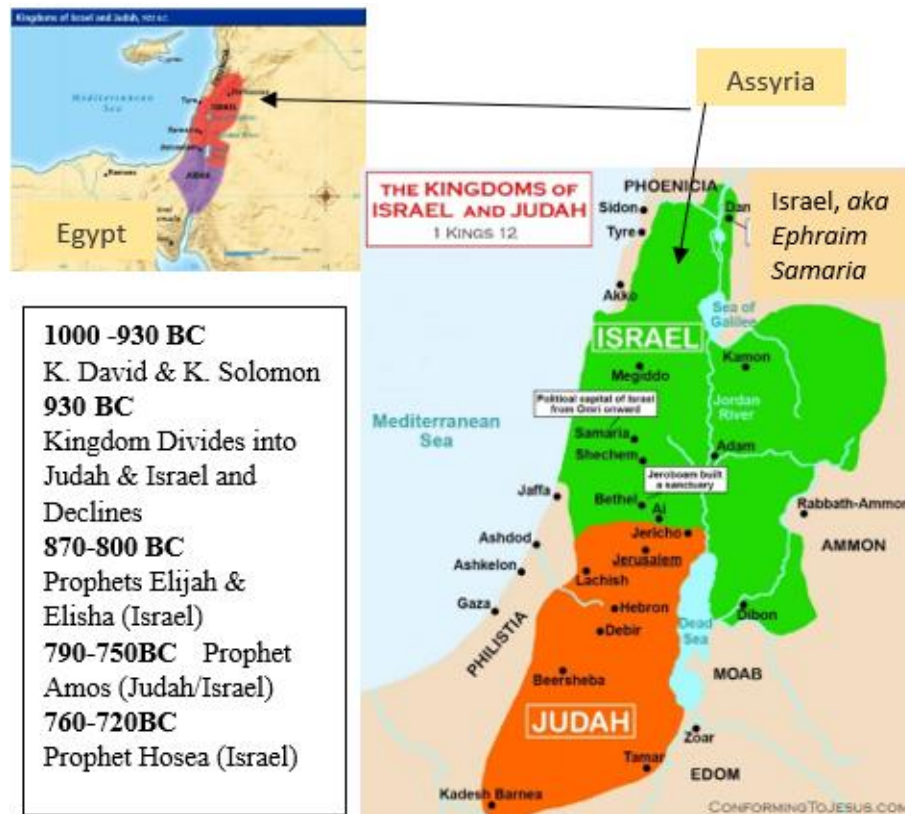
Beware, this Lent, of Israel’s deadly path – and RETURN

SERMON NOTES: HOSEA

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National Presbyterian Church

Lenten Worship, March 9, 2022



I. THE GODLESSNESS OF ISRAEL

In the days of Hosea

Hosea 4: The Lord has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land. There is **no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God** in the land. *Instead there is* ²Swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery; & bloodshed follows bloodshed. ⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; **(they) have forgotten the law of God.**

Hosea 8: ¹they have broken my covenant, and transgressed my law.

¹⁴Israel has forgotten his Maker

