

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec 2012.....Hosea 1:1-3:5..... Exposing a Broken Relationship
- 2) 09 Dec .....Hosea 4:1-7:16..... **Rebuking Destructive Behavior**
- 3) 16 Dec .....Hosea 8:1-10:15..... Deciding on Discipline
- 4) 23 Dec ..... Matthew 1:18-2:18..... Seeking the Savior
- 5) 30 Dec .....Hosea 11:1-12:14..... Remembering Compassion
- 6) 06 Jan 2013.....Hosea 13:1-14:9..... Restoring the Repentant
- 7) 13 Jan ..... Amos 1:1-4:13..... Unseal the Indictment
- 8) 20 Jan..... Gen 1; Ex 1, Ps 139; Mk 10..... Value of Human Life
- 9) 27 Jan..... Amos 5:1-6:14..... Court is in Session
- 10) 03 Feb..... Amos 7:1-17..... Can I Get a Witness
- 11) 10 Feb..... Amos 8:1-9:15..... Let the Verdict be Read
- 12) 17 Feb..... Jonah 1:1-2:10..... Pursuing Those Called to Tell
- 13) 24 Feb..... Jonah 3:1-4:11..... Pursuing Those Who Need to Hear

INTRODUCTION

- Can we turn a person or a nation from their wicked ways if they do not want to repent? .....  Yes |  No |  Maybe
- So, how should we respond if they fail to repent?
- God responds with more dire consequence, then He leaves them alone for a period of time before bringing final judgment

| Passage      | Comments  |
|--------------|---|
| Hosea 4:1-19 | <p><b>Without God, Chaos Reigns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. There is no knowledge of God in the land...so everyone and everything suffers for it. How can we keep our nation from moving in this direction?</li> <li>• vv4-5. <i>"I will destroy your mother."</i> IOW, God will destroy or put in disarray Israel's core elements needed for a stable society, such as their economy, their govt institutions, military, &amp; religious elements</li> <li>• v6. God condemns Israel's religious leaders more than their political leaders for rejecting Biblical truth, which causes the people to self-destruct. Again, what can we do to reverse our national trends toward godlessness?</li> <li>• v7. More is not always better. As the number of unrighteous priests multiplied so did the sins of Israel. <i>"When the wicked increase, sins increase"</i> .. Prov 29:16</li> <li>• vv8-10. <i>"Like people, like priest"</i> – The lack of good instruction from the priests does not make the people blameless, since everyone is responsible for their sins</li> <li>• vv9-13. Generational Curse – Alcohol &amp; Sex. They chase fleshly desires instead of chasing after God's righteousness – so the kids reap what the parents sow</li> <li>• v14. No double standard with God. Why should God punish the women for their adulteries when the men are chasing prostitutes?</li> <li>• v16. The Lord wants to lead (or bless) obedient sheep. Stubborn cows cannot be led. Which one are we?</li> </ul> |
| 5:1-15       | <p><b>Without Godly Leaders, People Flounder</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-7. God gives a warning to Israel's spiritual and political leaders (Priests – Congress – President)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Expect economic disaster for dealing treacherously with Him (e.g., by removing God from the public sector)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv4-5. Their sins &amp; pride will keep them from repenting</li> <li>• v12. God has become small (a moth) and useless (dry rot) to the people [Does this depict America or what?]</li> <li>• v15. God will leave them to their own destruction until they wholeheartedly repent and honestly seek Him. <i>"For years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"</i> – Anne Graham (Billy G.'s daughter)</li> </ul>   |

| Passage | Comments  |
|---------|---|
| 6:1-11  | <p><b>Without Repentance, Judgment Looms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. God's mercies are new every day (Lam 3:23), so take advantage of that by repenting and seeking Him</li> <li>• v6. God delights in obedience and not sacrifice; in sound doctrine and not in legalistic rituals; in love and not in rote. If we could grasp this truth what an impact we would have on society. People would take note of our behavior and be motivated to seek after our God</li> <li>• v11. God ends this chapter on a very positive note – There comes a day when Judah (the true Israel) will have their fortunes restored – in the Millennium</li> </ul>   |
| 7:1-16  | <p><b>Without Discipline, Rebellion Continues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. The wicked fail to consider their fate – But God remembers every wicked word, thought and deed</li> <li>• v3. <i>"They make the king glad with their wickedness"</i> – possibly by increasing the coffers from oppressing the poor (thru abortion, lotteries, legalized gambling, etc.)</li> <li>• v8. Israel is a <i>"cake not turned"</i> – a euphemism similar to "they are half-baked" – "they are a brick shy of a full load" – "their elevator doesn't go to the top floor"</li> <li>• v14. They do not cry to God for their needs...instead they rely on themselves, their technologies, and government policies for their food and drink</li> <li>• v15. God blessed them with freedom, but they used their freedom to reject God. [Is this America today?]</li> </ul> |

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Before God can use us to impact others we must first change ourselves. Do we seek after God's righteousness? Do we abuse our God-given freedoms by neglecting Him and His word?

NEXT WEEK: **Hosea 8-10**. More gloom and doom for Israel as they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind, which is another way to say God will repay their sins 10 fold. But God wants them to break up their fallow ground so godly blessings can come down on them like rain.



**If Angels Could Talk: "You need to get serious with your praying, so knock it off with prayers like 'Help my bundt cake turn out great' and 'Help me find my nail file'"**