

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec 2012.....Hosea 1:1-3:5..... Exposing a Broken Relationship
- 2) 09 DecHosea 4:1-7:16..... Rebuking Destructive Behavior
- 3) 16 DecHosea 8:1-10:15..... **Deciding on Discipline**
- 4) 23 DecMatthew 1:18-2:18..... Seeking the Savior
- 5) 30 DecHosea 11:1-12:14..... Remembering Compassion
- 6) 06 Jan 2013.....Hosea 13:1-14:9..... Restoring the Repentant
- 7) 13 JanAmos 1:1-4:13..... Unseal the Indictment
- 8) 20 Jan..... Gen 1; Ex 1, Ps 139; Mk 10..... Value of Human Life
- 9) 27 JanAmos 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

- This past week the U.S. Supreme Court justices agreed to consider the constitutionality of federal and state laws that deny marriage rights or marital benefits to same-sex couples
- This puts our nation on a precipice – Will the U.S. Supreme Court slow down or speed up our slide down the morality ladder?
- Does our modern society view Christian churches as noble institutions with a purpose to keep society on a good course, or as something to laugh at for having non-relevant, nonsensical, unscientific and mythological beliefs?

Passage	Comments
Hosea 8:1-14	<p>When Will They Shape Up?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. God gives another warning of doom, and Israel rebuts with <i>“But we are your people – we know you”</i> • Principle to Live By. People should not presume on God’s goodness to spare them from the consequences of their sins because they call themselves Christian • v4. <i>“They have appointed rulers without My help.”</i> - When self-pride & national pride rule, watch out! • v5. <i>“How long will they be incapable of innocence?”</i> - The Message says <i>“How long before they shape up?”</i> - Again, God has done everything conceivably possible to get Israel to obey Him short of turning them into mindless robots. God still waits for us to willingly repent • v7. <i>“They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind”</i> - This is another way to say God will repay them 10 fold - Is America in a similar situation? In recent years we have suffered numerous and disastrous weather phenomena, fires and earthquakes; long running wars with no end in sight; and enduring economic woes - What will it take for us as a nation to seek after God? • v10. <i>“They will diminish because of the king’s burden”</i> - This is another way to say as taxes increase, the people are crushed. - Even in America, one of the lowest taxed people in the world, we are beginning to see this trend end • v12. <i>“My word is regarded as a strange thing”</i> – the authority of God’s word became useless/non-relevant • People of the world should realize our global woes are not due to bad economics, but due to spiritual decline
9:1-9	<p>God’s Word Becomes Non-Relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2,6. The nation rejoiced in immorality, and the result will be economic ruin – <i>“wine will fail”</i> and <i>“weeds will take over the treasury”</i> (money will grow worthless) • vv7-9. <i>“The prophet is a fool”</i> and <i>“there is hatred in the House of God”</i> – In essence, the religious leaders and congregations also became non-relevant in society – they became a laughing stock for their foolishness

Passage	Comments
Note on Authority of God’s Word	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the authority of God’s word is belittled by God’s people, society will soon hold it in disdain 2. When churches hold man’s ideas higher than God’s ideas expect society to continue spiraling downhill
9:10-17	<p>Children will Suffer for the Sins of Their Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. When God departs a nation, woe to families • v13. Children were brought out for slaughter • v16. God even took direct action against Israel’s children for the sins of their parents • v17. Israel’s final fate will be dispersion among nations
10:1-8	<p>Israel’s Sins Reached God’s Breaking Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. When Israelites got more money they spent it on more vices. They also lost respect of their king & God, so it was time to pay the final price - destruction • v8. Destruction was going to be so horrific the people looked forward to dying by rocks falling on them • vv1213. The Remedy. Break up Your Fallow Ground! • How do we seek God’s Righteousness and stop trusting in ourselves and in our own resources such as technologies, military, policies and politicians? • vv14-15. If a once godly nation, such as Israel, fails to seek God’s righteousness, the only recourse is near total annihilation and dispersion amongst the nations

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When God’s people rely on alliances and their technologies rather than in God the results are fewer provisions, less freedom, and even a diminished population
- This does not mean we should avoid alliances or politics or technologies, but we should realize no politician, policy or twitter account can save us from our troubles

NEXT WEEK: **Matthew 1-2.** Can we prove with scientific or historical certainty the events of Jesus’ birth – such as the magi, the virgin birth, and the special star? NO, BUT we can prove with scientific and historical certainty Jesus is the promised Messiah through 100% accuracy of fulfilled prophecies and the mathematical laws of probability



“There’s absolutely nothing on TV tonight!”