

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept 2022	Amos 01-02	Listen to God
2) 11-Sept	Amos 03-04	Turn to God
3) 18 Sept	Amos 05-07	Seek God
4) 25 Sept	Amos 08-09	Hope in God
5) 02 Oct	Jonah 01-02	No Escape
6) 09 Oct	Jonah 03-04	No Compassion
7) 16 Oct	Hosea 01-03	The Unfaithful Bride
8) 23 Oct	Hosea 04-07	The Hollow Promises
9) 30 Oct	Hosea 08-12	The Sin Harvested
10) 06 Nov	Hosea 13-14	The Restoration Promised
11) 13 Nov	Micah 01-03	Leaders Needed
12) 20 Nov	Micah 04-06	Humble Beginnings
13) 27 Nov	Micah 07	Hope Found

INTRODUCTION

- The Northern Kingdom of Israel had become a nation where young women were anything but pure, married women entertained other men, the husbands chased prostitutes, and the religion of the land was focused on pleasurable experiences.
- 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>Without God, Chaos Reigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. "There is no [obedience] or knowledge of God in the land" ...so everyone and everything suffers for it. How would you turn things around? By love or force? • vv4-5. "I will destroy your mother." IOW, God will destroy or put in disarray Israel's core elements needed for a stable society, e.g., their economy, food supply, their govt institutions, military, & religious elements • v6. God condemns Israel's religious leaders more than their political leaders for rejecting Biblical truth, which causes the people to self-destruct. What can we do to reverse our national trend toward godlessness? • v7. More is not always better. As the number of unrighteous priests multiplied so did the sins of Israel. "When the wicked increase, sins increase" Prov 29:16 • vv8-10. "Like people, like priest" – The lack of good instruction from the priests does not make the people blameless since everyone is responsible for their sins • vv9-13. Generational Curse – Alcohol & Sex. They chased fleshly desires instead of chasing after God's righteousness – so the kids became like their parents • v14. No double standard with God. Why should God punish women for their adulteries when the men are chasing prostitutes? • v16. Stubborn cows cannot be led. The Lord wants to lead & bless obedient sheep. Which one are we? • v17. "...Leave him [Ephraim/Israel] alone." Because of willful unrepentance, God eventually says "Hands off." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle to Live by. Prodigal behavior, even from a family member, warrants us to leave them alone.
5:1-15	<p>Without Godly Leaders, People Flounder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-7. God gives a warning to Israel's spiritual and political leaders (Priests – Congress – President) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Expect economic disaster for dealing treacherously with Him (i.e., by removing God from the public sector) • vv4-5. Their sins & pride will keep them from repenting • v12. God has become small (a moth) and useless (dry rot) to the people. Does this depict America today? • v15. God will leave them to their own destruction until they wholeheartedly repent & honestly seek Him Luke 15:16-18

Passage	Comments
	<p>"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?" – Anne Graham Lotz (Billy Graham's daughter)</p>
6:1-11	<p>Without Repentance, Judgment Looms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. God's mercies are new every day (Lam 3:23), so take advantage of that by repenting and seeking Him often • v6. God delights in obedience, not sacrifice; in sound doctrine, not in legalistic rituals; in love, not in rote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If we could grasp this truth what an impact the Church would have on society. • v10. God says He saw a "horrible thing" of harlotry going on in His House (e.g., adultery, fornication, & prostitution) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall the 2 wicked sons of Eli (Hophni & Phinehas), who were priests, were guilty of open fornication 1Sam 2:22 ♦ Recall during King Josiah's days, there were rooms in God's house reserved for male prostitutes.....2Kings 23:7 ♦ Could God accuse churches today of a "horrible thing" of condoning adultery every time they remarry divorcees in His House? Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18 • v11. God ends this chapter on a very positive note. There comes a day when Judah (the true Israel) will have their fortunes restored, probably alluding to the Millennium.
7:1-16	<p>Without Discipline, Rebellion Continues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. The wicked fail to consider their fate – But God remembers every wicked word, thought, and deed • v3. "They make the king glad with their wickedness" – possibly by increasing the coffers from oppressing the poor (through abortion, lotteries, legalized gambling, etc.) • v8. Israel is a "cake not turned" – a euphemism similar to "they are half-baked" – "they are a brick shy of a full load" – IOW, they don't get it • v14. They do not cry to God for their needs...instead they rely on themselves, their technologies, and on government policies for their food and drink • v15. God blessed them with freedom, but they used their freedom to reject God. Again, is this America today?

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 Would Talk: "You need to get serious with your praying, so knock it off with prayers like 'Help my bundt cake turn out' and 'Help me find my nail file'" – How should we pray then?