

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 TO HOSEA 08-10

- 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?
- Here in these chapters, 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. And what about us Americans?

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 to Israel for rebelling against His Laws, and Israel rebuts with <i>"But we are Your people – we know You, Lord"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle to Live By. We should not presume on God's goodness to spare us from the consequences of our sins because we call ourselves Christian v4. <i>"They have appointed rulers without My help."</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They did things their way, not God's way v5. <i>"How long will they be incapable of innocence?"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 & disastrous weather phenomena, fires & earthquakes; long running wars, even enduring the Covid pandemic and 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IOW, as Govt taxes increase the people are crushed. - The U.S., one of the world's lowest taxed people, is seeing this end thanks to a growing socialist agenda v12. <i>"My word is regarded as a strange thing"</i> – the authority of God's word became useless/non-relevant Christians, at least, 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, religious leaders and their congregations become non-relevant in society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you imagine if we started to obey what we say we believe, how the world would be impacted? Wow, Christians obey the speed limit..... Rom 13:1-4 ...and if they get divorced, they take God's word seriously and reconcile or remain single!.... 1Cor 7:11

Passage	Comments
Note on Authority of God's Word	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> When the authority of God's word is belittled by God's people, society will soon hold it in disdain 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 125,000 abortions every day, worldwide About 2,000 per day just in America v16. God even took direct action against Israel's children for the sins of their parents. Wake up people!
10:1-15	<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 people would prefer dying by rocks falling on them cf Rev 6:16 vv12-13. The Remedy. Break up Your Fallow Ground! How do we sow with a view to Righteousness? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This takes thoughtful work. We first need to stop trusting in ourselves and in our own resources such as technologies, military, Govt policies, & politicians Then we need to be obedient to God's commands, and His commands are not burdensome ... 1John 5:3 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 TO HOSEA 08-10

- 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 scientific wonder can save us from our troubles – only God can

NEXT: Hosea 11-12. We see God's enduring compassion toward sinners. He always leaves a door open as long as possible with the expectation people will repent & seek Him whole-heartedly. But do they?



"There's absolutely nothing on TV tonight!"

INTRODUCTION TO HOSEA 11-12

- Here, we see God's enduring compassion toward sinners. He always leaves a door open as long as possible with the expectation people will repent & seek Him whole-heartedly. But do they? Will They?

Passage	Comments
Hosea 11:1-7	<p>Israel Failed to Count Its Blessings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1b. God called His son out of Egypt (Israel in history, Jesus in prophecy).....Matthew 2:15 • v1a-2. God loved Israel in its early days before Israel chose to chase after false gods of pleasure • vv3-4. Israel failed to see God's hand on their country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is America in the same situation as Israel, where we have been blessed by God but we fail to acknowledge Him? What will be the consequences? • vv5-6. A special fate – one tailored for the situation, is chosen for Israel. Assyria, a cruel, conquering nation, will crush, nearly annihilate, and disperse Israel • v7. God's preachers throughout the land cry out for the nation to return to God, but their cries are ignored
11:6	<p>The Message Bible provides this enlightening rendition of verse 6: "That is why their cities are unsafe—the murder rate skyrockets & every plan to improve things fails."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the fix that simple? If society humbly returns to God, our social ills go away? What are we waiting for?
11:8-12	<p>God Prefers to Bless and Not Curse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv8-9. God makes a case not to totally destroy Israel • vv10-11. God promises to restore Israel one day • v12. BUT, at this time in history both Israel and Judah were non-repentant, so they could expect judgment
12:1-7	<p>We must Wait for God – and Not Lose Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. "Oil is exported to Egypt" indicates Israel's wealth and resources were captured and taken away <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The tribe of Asher is noted as being blessed with wealth (Gen 49:20) and sitting on oil (Deut 33:24) ♦ Note: The oil & gas pockets in the Middle East are forecasted to run out mid-century. BUT in recent years massive energy resources were discovered within Israeli territory, which will soon turn geopolitical issues in that region upside down ♦ Recall the kings of the east (possibly China or oil-starved middle-eastern countries will one day march on Israel (for what purpose except to capture much needed resources)..... Rev 16:12 ♦ It is interesting the rising gas prices in America are due to our political leaders shutting down oil pipelines while importing more expensive oil from overseas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On one hand, there is wisdom to consume the world's oil reserves before we deplete our own • On the other hand, where is the balance to keep gas prices and inflation down while we spin up alternative sources of energy (i.e., solar, wind, electric, and other non-fossil-based sources) • Yet, we must always consider the God-factor, even on a national scale → Repent and Live <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But will we? It is not an impossibility with God! • vv2-6. God makes another judicial case, this time by bringing Judah (Israel's southern cousin) into focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God recall's Judah's (and Israel's) humble beginning and calls for their humble return – But do they? ♦ The Secret to Receiving God's Best. "Observe kindness and justice, and wait continually on God"

Passage	Comments
12:8-14	<p>Israel Began Nobly with Prophets and Visions – But Ends in Bloodshed Because of Willful Ignorance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v8. Israel (Ephraim) presents her case that she became rich without God's help, and she did it honestly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Similar to Proverbs 30:20 <i>This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wrong."</i> ♦ Self-delusion is the downfall of so many. God's Word gives us several principles to keep us from being self-deluded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not deceive yourself..... 1Cor 3:18 • Let no man deceive you 2Thes 2:3 • Do not be deceived by Satan Rev 12:9 ♦ Like Cain, God expects us to "master it" – in other words, be willing to take the steps necessary to prevent and eliminate sin from our lives..... Gen 4:7 - Even if it means running away from it 2Tim 2:22 ♦ We are accountable, and we must rely on God for the escape routes at times 1Cor 10:13 • vv9-11. God presents His case that He's known Israel since the beginning, He has seen all their sins, He has given them ample warnings through prophecies and visions, AND, He has a plan to restore them to the "good ole days" when they resided in tents and had close, intimate fellowship with God • vv12-14. In the good ole days God used a prophet (i.e., Moses) to lead His people to Him. Today, we have Elders. Cherish them, listen to them, emulate them (assuming they are good church elders) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle to live by. We cannot move forward with God till sin is dealt with and removed.....Num 12:15

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS TO HOSEA 11-12

- We need to have patience and heed God's commands to observe kindness (love) and justice and wait on Him continually – through tough times and easy times, times of persecution and times of peace
- What steps can we take to help turn our nation around for God?

NEXT WEEK: Hosea 13-14. When riches & comfort increase man also has a tendency to forget God. So how do we prepare to weather both good times & bad times without forgetting God or forsaking Him?

