

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

- 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><b>When Will They Shape Up?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. God gives another warning of doom, and Israel rebuts with <i>“But we are your people – we know you”</i></li> <li>• <b>Principle to Live By.</b> People should not presume on God’s goodness to spare them from the consequences of their sins because they call themselves Christian</li> <li>• v4. <i>“They have appointed rulers without My help.”</i><br/>- When self-pride &amp; national pride rule, watch out!</li> <li>• v5. <i>“How long will they be incapable of innocence?”</i><br/>- The Message says <i>“How long before they shape up?”</i><br/>- 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</li> <li>• v7. <i>“They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind”</i><br/>- This is another way to say God will repay them 10 fold<br/>- 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<br/>- What will it take for us as a nation to seek after God?</li> <li>• v10. <i>“They will diminish because of the king’s burden”</i><br/>- This is another way to say as taxes increase, the people are crushed.<br/>- Even in America, one of the lowest taxed people in the world, we are beginning to see this trend end</li> <li>• v12. <i>“My word is regarded as a strange thing”</i> – the authority of God’s word became useless/non-relevant</li> <li>• People of the world should realize our global woes are not due to bad economics, but due to spiritual decline</li> </ul> |
| 9:1-9        | <p><b>God’s Word Becomes Non-Relevant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>  |

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

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!”