

The Book of Hosea

Chapters Four and Five

- I. Review
 - A. Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel who prophesied of its fall to Assyria.
 - B. The first three chapters focus on the use of Hosea's marriage to Gomer as an object lesson for God and Israel's relationship.
 - C. Beginning in chapter four we move away from this object lesson, and into various prophecies given to Hosea.
- II. Chapter Four
 - A. In this chapter we take a stark look at the condition of God's people
 - B. vs. 2 - I think they've knocked out at least 4 of the 10 Commandments!
 - C. vs. 3 - Note the tie between the health of the land and the spiritual health of the people (II Chronicles 7:14)
 - D. vs. 6 - This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. We focus too much on "do, do, do" but neglect "know, know, know"
 - E. vs. 9 - note that the distinction between priesthood and people, or leadership and followers, is taken away in respect to responsibility.
 - F. vs. 12 - stocks and staff speak of idols and divination
 - G. vs. 14 - there is an interesting fact here that God is holding back His reproof hand to let them suffer the natural consequences of their actions (Hebrews 12:6)
 - H. vs. 15 - Bethaven - "house of iniquity", also known as Bethel or "House of God". The name change seems to correspond with the setting up of idols there (I Kings 12:28-33)
 - I. vs. 17 - Ephraim - Because of its connection to Jeroboam that rebelled against Solomon (I Kings 11:26), it seems likely that this term represents the royalty of the Northern Kingdom, or the kingdom itself by extension.
- III. Chapter Five
 - A. This chapter pictures the coming judgment upon Israel.
 - B. vs. 1 - Mizpah and Mt. Tabor are on opposite sides of the Jordan, highlighting the spread of the wrongdoing
 - C. vs. 2 - despite God's opposition, they sunk lower.
 - D. vs. 5-6 - note that the people turn to God *after* judgment, but by then it is too late.
 - E. vs. 13 - King Jareb - means "avenger", represents Assyria, whom both Kingdoms had attempted alliances with (II Kings 15:19, 17:3,16:7)
 - F. vs. 14-15 - God brings judgment then awaits His people to repent