

The Book of Hosea

Chapter 8

Review

- In this chapter we have the vain hopes of Israel against judgment: idols (vs. 5), hired allies (vs. 9), heartless worship (vs. 11).
- B.H. Carroll uses the imagery of trumpet (*shofar* in vs. 1) blasts based to outline five reasons for the judgment. We will follow this outline.

Chapter Eight



vs.1-3 - “The first blast declared the coming of judgment under the figure of an eagle, because of transgression and trespass.”

- vs. 1 - the eagle represents Assyria and their coming invasion of Israel. John Gill says it speaks of “of Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, compared to this creature for his swiftness in coming, his strength, fierceness, and cruelty; this creature being swift in flight, and a bird of prey.”
- vs. 1 – “the house of God” here is the people of Israel, not the Temple.
- vs. 2 – This verse is not true repentance. This is a desperate plea to avoid the swift judgment. The proof is in the next verse.
- vs. 3 - good - that which is holy, righteous, and by extension God Himself



vs. 4 - “The second blast emphasized Israel’s sin of rebellion, in that they had set up kings and princes without authority of Jehovah.”

- vs. 4 - they were trusting in their plans and riches, not in God



vs. 5-6 - “The third dealt with Israel’s idolatry, announcing that Jehovah had cast off the calf of Samaria.”

- vs. 5-6 - I love it when God mocks idols. Similar passages are in Psalm 115:4-8, 135:15-18; Isaiah 44:9-20; Jeremiah 10:3-9,14; Habakkuk 2:18.



vs. 7-10 - “The fourth denounced Israel’s alliances and declared that her hire among the nations had issued in her diminishing.”

- vs. 7 - ever heard that phrase?
- vs. 7 – Sowing seeds of sin will never bring an enjoyable harvest.
- vs. 8 – Not just their possessions, but the people are consumed by the nations.

- vs. 9 – Their national strength is pictured as being lonely, stubborn donkey that wanders alone, making it easy prey for lions.
- vs. 9-10 – Their diplomatic strength is pictured as a prostitute that was paying others for their attention. See Ezekiel 16:33-34
- vs. 10 - “sorrow a little” – they will begin to sorrow when they pay tribute to Assyria (II Kings 15:19-20, 17:3).



“The fifth drew attention to the altars of sin and announced the coming judgment.”

- vs. 11 – Albert Barnes writes:
 - “God had appointed ‘one’ altar at Jerusalem. There He willed the sacrifices to be offered, which He would accept. To multiply altars, much more to set up altars against the one altar, was to multiply sin. Hosea charges Israel elsewhere with this multiplying of altars, as a grievous sin. ‘According to the multitude of his fruit, he hath increased altars. Their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the field’ Hosea 10:1; Hosea 12:11. They pretended doubtless, that they did it for a religious end, that they might thereon offer sacrifices for the expiation of their sins and appeasing of God. They endeavored to unite their own self-will and the outward service of God. Therein they might deceive themselves; but they could not deceive God. He calls their act by its true name. To make altars at their own pleasure and to offer sacrifices upon them, under any pretense whatever, was to sin. So then, as many altars as they reared, so often did they repeat their sin; and this sin should be their only fruit. They should be, but only for sin. So God says of the two calves, ‘This thing became a sin’ 1Kings 12:30, and of the indiscriminate consecration of priests (not of the family of Aaron), ‘This thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth’ 1Kings 13:33-34.”
- vs. 12 – They had the truth yet chose to go against God.
- vs. 13 – The fact that they *eat* the sacrifices is key here. These were not offering these for sin because none of those allowed for eating any portion of the sacrifice. They were instead supposedly offering to God but were doing so to fill their own bellies.
- vs. 13 – “they shall return to Egypt” – they will go back into slavery as they were before.
- vs. 14 - the Northern Kingdom trusted in its false religion, the Southern in its military strength. Neither will stand against God’s judgment.