

The Book of Hosea

Chapter 9

Introduction

- In this chapter God describes the judgment that is coming, in dispersion (1-9) and then barrenness (10-17)

Chapter Nine

- vs. 1 - Instead of repenting or mourning, Israel's unfaithfulness becomes even more widespread.
- vs. 2 – they will find no satisfaction through their sins.
- vs. 3 - Dispersion. The people will be taken from the land and scattered. This was a key method of subjugation used by Assyria and later empires.
- vs. 3 – it appears that some of the elite may escape to Egypt, but most of the people will be in captivity in Assyria.
- vs. 4 – Their joy turns to mourning. Even if they desire to return to the Lord, they cannot worship him as they ought.
- vs. 5 – They have lost their freedom to worship God as they were supposed to.
- vs. 6 - Note the humiliation of condition in judgment. From riches to thorns. Egypt will not be an escape.
- vs. 7-8 - these verses describe the false spirituality that the people trusted in. The prophets mentioned are false prophets.
- vs. 9 - Gibeah - the terrible crime of Judges 19:22-30. To be compared to that is mind-boggling.
- vs. 10 - Baalpeor - see Numbers 25:1-15. There God had judged the nation for turning to idolatry, 24,000 were killed in judgment.
- vs. 11 – There will be no heirs to carry on their legacy.
- vs. 12 - the surviving generation will be destroyed
- vs. 13 - Comparing the capital Samaria to the city of Tyre in Phoenicia. Both appear impregnable, but both fell to conquerors.
- vs. 14 – In the day of judgment it would be better that they had no children.
- vs. 15 - Gilgal pops up again. Based on this and 4:15, it is assumed that it must have been a center of idolatry.
- vs. 16 – Here Ephraim is compared to a dying tree, both will no longer reproduce.
- vs. 17 - another allusion to dispersion