

THE PROPHET HOSEA

Lesson 3

Review. The previous lesson covered chapters 4-5. What did the Lord find lacking in Israel?

Introduction

As we hear the word of the Lord through Hosea, keep in mind that there is a long history between the Lord and Israel. The Lord is not just reacting to an isolated event in the time of Hosea, but to a persistent pattern and problem that has occurred throughout Israel's history.

Consider the period of the Judges. What pattern repeated throughout that era? How did the Lord respond each time?

What does the Lord desire for all people?

What is repentance?

What is impenitence?

Israel talks a good game

Read Hosea 6:1-10.

Consider:

Israel's thoughts in verse 1-3:

God's response in verses 4-6:

Examples of unfaithfulness in verses 7-10:

Discussion

- What important reminder does God give in this chapter when it comes to approaching him in worship?
- What sacrifices are pleasing to God? (See **Psalm 51:16, 17**)
- Time and again Israel had tried crawling back to God expecting to find forgiveness simply by going through the motions. If someone has sinned against you repeatedly how are you to determine when to apply the law and when to apply the gospel? How often should we forgive? Is there ever a time when we would withhold forgiveness? (Consider **Matthew 18:15-35**)

Ignorance and arrogance are deadly

Read Hosea 6:11-7:16.

What does a harvest often symbolize in Scripture?

How is God's grace stated briefly but clearly at the beginning of this chapter?

When the Lord sought to heal and restore his people what happened instead?

What did the people fail to realize according to verse 2? How could this be?

What is the point of comparison between the people and a hot oven in verses 4-7?

What does it mean that Israel's arrogance testify against him? (Verse 10)

Both in verse 9 and in verse 11 Ephraim (Israel) is called out for turning to other nations. Why was this sin so serious?

Compare verse 12 to **Psalm 91:3**.

Note the brief glimpse of God's grace in verse 13. Why is it so brief?

Take a closer look at verses 13-16. How does Israel respond to God's love and mercy?

How would Israel be ridiculed in Egypt? (Consider **Exodus 32:11-14**)

Is there any hope in these chapters? How about in the wider context of Hosea?

Discussion

- Israel is condemned both for their ignorance and their arrogance? Which is worse?
- "The Lord remembers all evil deeds" is a statement of law. Israel, in their impenitence was hoping that the Lord wouldn't remember their sin. But God will not be mocked. Should we expect the Lord to not remember our sin? (Consider **Psalm 25:6,7**)
- **Hosea 7:14** says that the people were not crying out from their hearts, but they wailed upon their beds. What is the difference between earthly sorrow and godly sorry?
- The chapters under consideration today are directed at the unfaithful and impenitent in Israel. Collectively, Israel had strayed from the Lord. However, there were those in Israel who remained faithful. What impact would these words of prophecy have had on them? What impact do these words have on us still today?