

# THE PROPHET HOSEA

## Lesson 4 *Judgment is coming*

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**Review.** The previous lesson covered chapters 6-7. How was Israel's impenitence evident?

### Introduction

Christ is coming. What is he coming to do? Is this truth meant to frighten or comfort?

In Hosea 8-10 the Lord warns that his judgment is coming. He has not forgotten Israel's wickedness and he is not fooled by their lip service. Meanwhile, Israel had become complacent. They thought they had honored God. At the start of Hosea's ministry, Israel was an economically prosperous nation. They went about their business and engaged in idolatry and immorality. They enjoyed the harvest of the land—the produce and the new wine. However, their spiritual complacency made them ripe for the Lord's harvest of judgment.

What leads one today to become spiritually complacent?

How aware is the average person of God's pending judgment?

### “A man reaps what he sows”

**Read Hosea 8:1-14.** How will the Lord exercise judgment according to these verses?

Verse 1 pictures a trumpet and an eagle (or vulture). What does each illustrate?

What does Israel claim in verse 2? Do they actually believe it?

How did Israel demonstrate that they did not acknowledge God? (Note especially verses 3-6)

What imagery does Hosea use in verse 7? (See also **Matthew 3:8-10**)

In verses 8-10 Israel is pictured as straying and wandering but the Lord says, “I will now gather them together.” Are those words meant to comfort?

Note the irony in verse 11.

Verse 13 states, “Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sin.” In Hosea 7:2, the Lord himself said, “I remember all their evil deeds.” Compare this sobering truth to **Isaiah 42:25** and **Jeremiah 31:34b**.

**Discussion.** Israel had their idols and yet they claimed to acknowledge their God. This is so incompatible. One cannot serve two masters—either he'll hate the one and love the other. Why are sinners so easily duped into this kind of thinking? In what ways are we similarly tempted?

## “The days of punishment are coming”

**Read Hosea 9:1-17.** How will the Lord exercise judgment according to these verses?

How is Israel’s complacency expressed in the opening verses of the chapter?

Note the recurring references to Egypt.

How are the Lord’s prophets treated in a society where immorality and idolatry are running rampant? (See verse 7).

Note the repetition in verse 9.

Who is responsible for the horrific things that will happen to Israel? (Note especially verses 11-17)

### **Discussion**

- Evaluate the statement “God hates the sin but loves the sinner” in light of verse 15.
- The Lord came looking for fruit in Ephraim but he found none (Ephraim means fruitful). What fruit does the Lord look for in our lives? How is that fruit produced? (Consider **Psalm 1** and **John 15:5**)

## “Reap the fruit of unfailing love”

**Read Hosea 10:1-15.** How will the Lord exercise judgment according to these verses?

What happened as Israel prospered? (Verse 1)

Note the contrast in imagery between verse 1 and verse 4.

Even as Israel’s idols are being carried off into exile, the people mourn their loss. What does this highlight about the sin of idolatry?

What powerful reminder does the Lord give in verse 10?

Take a closer look at 12:

What does it mean to sow righteousness?

What would Israel reap if they sowed righteousness?

When is a good time to seek the Lord?

**Final thought.** As we read through these particular chapters of Hosea, it’s hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But remember the greater context of Scripture—it all revolves around Christ who came to save the world from sin. How do even these chapters of Hosea contribute to that overall theme in Scripture?