



THE MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea 8-14

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The Minor Prophets

Part 4: THE JUDGMENT OF GOD (8:1-10:15)

I. ISRAEL HAS FORSAKEN GOD -8:1-15

A. ISRAEL HAS TRANSGRESSED THE COVENANT OF GOD -vs. 1-6

1. It is for this reason that judgment against them is coming.
2. Their kings did evil in the sight of God -vs. 4; cf. 2Ki 15:23, 24
3. They made idols for themselves -vs.4b-6

B. THEY WILL REAP THE WHIRLWIND -vs. 7-10

1. Because they made alliances with Assyria, they would reap disaster.
2. Their land would not produce food. Even if it did, their enemy would devour it -vs. 7

C. THE IMPENDING JUDGMENT -vs. 11-15

1. Israel was not living in accordance with God's will
 - a. They had many altars of sacrifice. According to the pattern, they were only to have one in Jerusalem.
 - b. Even though they had many altars and were trying to appear religious, they could never deceive God.
 - c. Therefore, God would not accept their sacrifices.
2. Their punishment would be a return to Egypt. This is not literal, but a figurative representation of captivity.
3. Both Israel and Judah -vs. 14
 - a. Israel had forgotten their Maker.
 - b. Judah has put more faith in their fortified cities than in God.

The Minor Prophets

II. ISRAEL WILL BE CARRIED AWAY TO ASSYRIA - 9:1-17

A. LIKE GOMER, ISRAEL HAD PLAYED THE HARLOT -vs. 1, 2

1. They had forsaken God for Baal.
 - a. They attributed their harvest to Baal.
 - b. The reality was that all their blessings had come for God.
2. The threshing floor would no longer provide.
 - a. They would be carried off into captivity.
 - b. Their enemies would enjoy the bounty of harvest.

B. ISRAEL WILL NOT DWELL IN THE LAND -vs. 3-9

1. The Lord's land -vs. 3
 - a. The Lord stated that the land was His; they were sojourners -Le 25:23
 - b. If Israel is not in the land, their worship would be adversely affected.

DAVID STATED THAT BEING DRIVEN OUT OF ISRAEL MEANT SERVING OTHER GODS (1 SA 26:19); NAAMAN WANTED TO TAKE EARTH BACK TO DAMASCUS TO WORSHIP THE LORD THERE (2KI 5:17); AND JONAH HOPED TO ESCAPE THE LORD'S SPHERE BY GOING TO TARSHISH (JON 1:3). OTHER LANDS WERE UNCLEAN (AMOS 7:17), AND THE FOOD IN THEM WAS UNCLEAN (EZ 4:13). (LEWIS, 231-232)

2. Israel would have to eat unclean food while in captivity -vs. 3
 - a. Had not followed first fruits procedures -Ex 22:29
 - b. No tithe of food had been taken -Le 27:30-33

The Minor Prophets

- c. The food was not according to regulation -Le 11:1-47; De 14:3-21
3. During their captivity, they would not be able to worship the Lord according to the Law -vs. 4
4. All their wealth and precious possessions would be covered in weeds and thorns.
5. The people would come to know their prophets as fools.
 - a. They had given false hope that all would be well. This was not the case.
 - b. They were a “fowler’s snare” in all their ways.
6. The days of Gibeah was a time one tribe was almost destroyed from Israel -cf. Ju 19-20.

C. ISRAEL’S GLORY FADES -vs. 10-17

1. Israel began well. God found them to be “like grapes in the wilderness” -vs.10
2. Baal-peor: Here they corrupted themselves. -Nu 25:3; Ps 106:28
3. The glory of Israel fades -vs. 11
 - a. They will be bereaved of children
 - b. Jews understood barren wombs to be a mark of divine punishment.
4. Tyre was a place of security. Yet this would be a place their children would be delivered over to the slayer - vs. 13
5. Gilgal was a place reflecting Israel’s loyalty unto God
 - a. The covenant of Abraham was renewed here -Jos 5:9
 - b. Saul was anointed here -1Sa 11:14-15
 - c. It was here that the deliverance of God culminated -Mi 6:5

The Minor Prophets

6. Despite all the good at Gilgal, it was now a place of idolatry. Therefore, Israel fell out of mercy and were no longer His people.
7. They would be cast out of the land of the Lord because, “they did not hearken unto Him” -vs. 17
 - a. This verse reveals the tragic state of Israel.
 - b. It also serves as a grave warning to us. We must always listen to and heed the word of the Lord!

III. THE SIN AND SHAME OF ISRAEL -10:1-15

- A. THERE IS NO HOPE IN FALSE GODS OR KINGS - vs. 1-3
 1. Their land was bountiful -vs. 1
 - a. The economy now was good.
 - b. Spiritually, they were bankrupt before Him.
 2. They indulged in idol worship -vs. 2
 3. The king is powerless to help the people. Without God, the king can do nothing.
- B. CARRIED AWAY TO ASSYRIA -vs. 4-8
 1. They have sworn falsely in making a covenant, therefore their glory is fading, and captivity is nigh.
 2. Bethel is the “House of God”. In verse 5 it is called “Beth Aven” which is the “House of Vanity”. This is because it will soon be empty.
 3. The idol (cf. 2Ki 23:5; Ze 1:4) will be carried off and given as a gift. (glory as faded)
 4. The king of Samaria will be cut off.
 5. The high places will be destroyed
 - a. The places where they committed their sin of idol worship
 - b. The altars would be covered in thorns and thistles.

The Minor Prophets

6. When these events come to pass, the people will be afraid to the point of longing for death.

C. ISRAEL'S PUNISHMENT COMING DUE TO CONTINUING SIN -vs. 9-11

1. They have sinned since the "days of Gibeah" (cf. Judges 19-20)
2. "When I bind them for their two transgressions." -vs. 10b
 - a. There is controversy between commentators over what two transgressions.
 - b. Some possible theories:
 - 1) The two calves at Dan and Bethel
 - 2) The two evils mentioned by Jeremiah -Je 2:13
 - 3) Most probable is "...the rejection of Jehovah as their King, when they asked for a king like those of the nations around them (1Sam 8), and their rejection of Him as their God, when they introduced idolatry." (Hailey, 170-171)

D. RETURN TO RIGHTEOUSNESS -vs. 12-15

1. Hosea urges the people to repent -vs. 12
 - a. He uses an illustration from agriculture
 - b. If they would sow righteousness, they would reap kindness.
 - c. God would rain righteousness upon them.
 - d. Since they never repented, there is no indication that God rained righteousness down on them.
2. Hosea reflects on their wicked ways -vs. 13
 - a. Plowed wickedness; reaped iniquity -cf. Ga 6:7, 8; Pr 22:8
 - b. Eaten the fruit of their lies (ie. Consequence of their wicked ways)
 - c. The tumult (armies) is coming against them -vs. 14

The Minor Prophets

- d. Shalman – This battle is not recorded in the book of Kings. It was something Hosea’s readers would have been familiar with, but it left to speculation for us today.
- e. The “mother dashed in pieces upon her children” is a proverbial statement which references the cruel end that Israel is facing.
- f. Because of their great wickedness, they would be “cut off”.

The Minor Prophets

Part 5: THE MERCY OF GOD (11:1-14:9)

I. GOD'S ENDURING LOVE (11:1-11)

A. GOD'S CARE FOR ISRAEL -vs. 1-4

1. Out of Egypt God called His son
 - a. Israel was called out of Egyptian bondage by God through Moses
 - b. Matthew reveals how this is also a reference to Jesus -Mt 2:15
 - 1) Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod
 - 2) When the time came, Jesus was called out of Egypt.
2. God loved Israel from the beginning
 - a. Just as a father loves his children, God took great care of Israel
 - b. What He received in return, was their turning to idols.

B. ISRAEL REFUSES TO REPENT -vs. 5-7

1. God is sending them into captivity
 - a. Before they were under Egyptian control.
 - b. This time it would be Assyria.
2. This is due to their backsliding and refusal to repent.

C. GOD DOESN'T DESIRE THEIR DESTRUCTION -vs. 8-11

1. Even under the threat of captivity, God's great love is clearly seen.
 - a. He does not want to give His people over to destruction

The Minor Prophets

- b. He references “Admah” and “Zeboiim” -cf. De 29:23
2. He states, “I will not execute the fierceness of My anger...” -vs. 9
 - a. This is not a contradiction of their captivity.
 - b. God has always saved a remnant.
 - 1) The tribe of Benjamin -Ju 19-20
 - 2) The Israelites in the wilderness -Ex 32:10
3. God would have mercy upon the remnant -vs. 10, 11
 - a. He does not indicate that they would return to Palestine in this passage.
 - b. Hope would come through the Messiah.

“This word is a ray of hope to be realized under the Messiah, through whom they would be called by the gospel to peace and protection in Him.” (Hailey, 175)

II. GOD’S DISPLEASURE WITH EPHRAIM (11:12-12:14)

A. CONTRAST BETWEEN EPHRAIM AND JUDAH -11:12-12:6

1. Ephraim has gone astray while Judah has remained
 - a. “Judah still walks with God” -11:12
 - b. Ephraim makes a covenant with the Assyrians which will come to nothing.
2. Charge against Judah
 - a. He took his brother by the heel from the womb.
 - 1) He wanted the birthright and bargained for it.
 - 2) He later achieved the blessing from his father by deceit.

The Minor Prophets

- b. He wrestled with the Angel and prevailed - 12:4; Ge 32:28. Jacob prevailed therefore, his descendants could also prevail if they gave themselves to do so.
 3. Hosea urges them to return to God who gives them the power to prevail. If they would observe “mercy and justice” God would be their strength - vs. 6
- B. DESTRUCTION IS NIGH -vs. 7-14
1. Ephraim did not wait on God as instructed (in vs. 6) -vs. 7, 8
 - a. He gained wealth for himself through deceit and oppression.
 - b. He credits his success to his own efforts and claims he has committed no sin.
 2. The Lord sees all and knows all -vs. 9-11
 - a. Because of their sins, God would cast them out as before.
 - b. He warned them of this through the prophets, therefore they are without excuse for their predicament.
 - c. The idols of Gilead would come to destruction.
 3. Contrast again is made -vs. 12-14
 - a. Jacob served as a slave for his spouse -vs. 12
 - b. God through Moses led His people out of slavery and into the Promised Land -vs. 13
 - c. Ephraim was not thankful but continued in his sins. Therefore, punishment is imminent.

The Minor Prophets

III. **GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL (13:1-16)**

A. ISRAEL GIVEN TO IDOL WORSHIP -vs. 1-8

1. Ephraim was exalted in Israel (vs. 1a)
 - a. Ephraim was blessed by Jacob over Manasseh -Ge 48:18-20
 - b. Ephraim was highly respected during the period of the judges -Ju 8:1-3; 12:1-ff
 - c. The first king of the ten tribes of Israel was an Ephraimite named Jeroboam -1Ki 11:26
2. He died when he gave himself to Baal worship (vs. 1b, 2)
 - a. Calf worship was introduced by Jeroboam I -1Ki 12:25-33
 - b. Full-grown Baal worship came through King Ahab and Jezebel -1 Ki 16:29-33
3. Four metaphors of destruction are given (vs. 3)
4. There is no other God; no other savior (vs. 4-6)
 - a. God was with them in the wilderness.
 - b. He commanded them to have no other gods before Him.
 - c. He provided for His people in the wilderness, something no other god could do.
 - d. Yet their hearts were filled, and they forgot their God.
5. Destruction is coming upon them (vs. 7, 8)
 - a. God will destroy them like a wild beast destroys its prey.
 - b. Their idols are useless to save them -cf. Ju 10:11-14; Is 44:16, 17

B. DOOM IS COMING -vs. 9-16

1. The Lord is their king (vs. 9-11)
 - a. Israel had demanded a king -1Sa 8:4, 5

The Minor Prophets

- b. All Israel's kings from Jeroboam to Hoshea were idol worshipers
- c. None of their kings would be able to save them from wrath to come.
2. Their sins persist (vs. 12, 13)
 - a. Their sin is bound and stored. (ie. It is to the point of destruction. -cf. De 32:34, 35)
 - b. The metaphor of a woman in childbirth
 - 1) A child refuses to be born causes eventual death.
 - 2) Israel refuses to repent which results also in death.
3. Ransomed from the grave (vs. 14)
 - a. God would deliver His people.
 - b. The ultimate fulfillment of this is through Christ -1Co 15:54, 55
4. The end for Ephraim (vs. 15, 16)
 - a. The name "Ephraim" means "double-fruitfulness". Now the fruit of his labors would come to nothing.
 - b. The Assyrians would come and take away everything.
 - c. Samaria would be viciously attacked for their wickedness.
 - d. "The Baal cult brought death, not fertility." (Lewis, 309)

IV. GOD'S RESTORATION OF ISRAEL (14:1-9)

A. PLEA FOR REPENTANCE (vs. 1-3)

1. There remains great hope for their repentance.
2. Repentance involves:
 - a. Returning to the Lord
 - b. Making sacrifices unto Him. Not just of bulls and goats, but of the lips.

The Minor Prophets

- c. The acknowledgement that salvation does not come from trust in men, but rather in God alone. He is the One who will have mercy!

B. HEALING FROM GOD (vs. 4-8)

1. Their backsliding would be healed and God's love for them enjoyed once again.
2. He would be strong in the Lord once again.
3. The example of his faithfulness would be exemplified before others (vs. 6, 7).
 - a. We too set a great example before others -1Ti 4:12
 - b. We strive to live righteously before God and have others follow -1Co 11:1; Ph 4:9
4. The worship of idols is no more.

C. MESSAGE FOR US TODAY (vs. 9)

1. If one wishes to be wise, understanding, and prudent, he has to know and follow the will of God.
2. We know His ways are right; they are truth -Jn 17:17
3. Therefore, we walk in His ways -1Jn 2:6; Ep 5:1
4. The wicked however, will stumble.

The Minor Prophets

Resources:

Homer Hailey. (1972) *A Commentary on the Minor Prophets*. Baker Book House; Grand Lake, MI

Jack P. Lewis (2018) *Truth for Today Commentary: An Exegesis of Hosea, Joel, and Amos*. Resource Publications; Searcy, AR