

Hello. /We will begin the 4th lecture on the book of Hosea. /Today's message starts from Hosea 5. /The title of chapter 5 is "Rebuke and Repentance."

/God rebukes Israel and Judah's sin in verses 1-7. /Verses 8-14 are God's prediction of Israel's punishment. /In verse 15, Israel repents in its suffering.

/The book of Hosea was prophesied in North Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam II. /At this time, Israel was politically powerful. /However, its faith was corrupt as it worshiped Baal and other idols. /The entire nation was plagued with the sin of worshiping idols.

/Aside from its sin of worshiping idols, Israel was morally corrupt. /Israel was like an adulteress who had left her husband to engage in sinful acts with another man. /God speaks of these things through Hosea.

/5:1-7 are about the following things. /The subject of the message is about listening to God's word and returning to him. /This message applies not only to the people of Israel, but it also applies to us today. /We must regard highly of God's word, and we need to walk according to it.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Hear this, O priests! Pay attention, O house of Israel! Give ear, O house of the king! For the judgment is for you; for you have been a snare at Mizpah and a net spread upon Tabor.

/God first warns the priests. /Priests are leaders who are responsible for the people's faith. /However, these priests became corrupt priests who led the people into worshiping Baal, Asherah, and the golden calf.

/Even today, God first warns his servants who teach the word of God. /We believers must be able to take on the position as priest for the world. /1 Peter 2:9 says that we are a royal priesthood. /We too must hear the word of God. /We need to obey God's word. /In the verse, God says, "Pay attention, O house of Israel!"

/The word "Israel" means "who prevails with God." /Israel is God's people who received the grace of atonement through the priests. /However, because Israel has left God, God tells Israel to pay attention. /He wants the people who have become his children to live like his children.

/The verse reads, "Give ear, O house of the king!" /The priests are Israel's spiritual leaders. /The kings are the ones who guide the children of Israel in administrative duties. /They are the ones who must preserve justice.

/Whether they are spiritual leaders or administrative leaders, they are the same. /They must first turn their ear to God's word. /God says to them, "For the judgment is for you." /This is the reason they need to listen to God.

/The reason is judgment is near. /Many prophets had already given these warnings. /God says, “For you have been a snare at Mizpah and a net spread upon Tabor.” /Mizpah is the holy place where Samuel repented.

/Tabor is the place in Judges 4:12 where the female Judge Deborah defeats Sisera and Barak to restore Israel’s faith. /Israel slaughtered people at such a place. /They took a holy place and turned it into a snare used to shed the blood of reformers.

/The snare and the net foreshadow Israel systematically oppressing people. /However, they fell into God’s snare and net. /If we listen to God’s word but are not affected by it, we will fall into a net. /Therefore, children of God must obey God’s word and turn away from sin.

/Verse 2. /And the revolvers have gone deep into slaughter, but I will discipline all of them.

/To revolt means to ignore the word of God and continue to disobey it. / “Revolters” are people who habitually disobey God. /It says that the revolvers have gone deep into slaughter. /They became stubborn and insensitive to their sin.

/Later on, they fall into the sin of effortlessly killing people. /They become people who torment their brothers and neighbors. /God says he will discipline all of them. /He will discipline them by putting them into the hands of the Assyrians.

/Thus we must return to God before we are punished. /We need to repent before we are struck by the whip. /We must obey God when we hear his word. /If we repent after hearing God’s message of repentance, we are blessed.

/Verse 3. /I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me; for now, O Ephraim, you have played the whore; Israel is defiled.

/God knows about Israel’s every sin. /Lewdness is a sin that is usually done in secret. /However, God knows about all these things. /People may think they have sinned in secret, but God knows. /Like a naked person who is exposed, we are exposed to God.

/We may give excuses like we are at a hearing, but it is of no use. /God knows everything, so it is better to repent and return. /The only way to survive is to quickly repent before the one who knows it all.

/Verse 4. /Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD.

/The original text of verse 4 goes like this. /Their deeds do not cause their conscience any pain. /That is why they cannot return to God. /If our sin becomes habit, we cannot return before God.

/When this happens, believers cannot understand the grace of God, /and they cannot come to a place of knowing God. /If we habitually sin while serving God, we will not be able to come to realization.

/Take this for example. /When we sin, we do not look forward to Sunday. /We also do not want to go to church. /We don't want to read the Bible. /We don't want to pray. /We also do not want to come before God.

/In this way, if our hearts are occupied by something other than God, our spirit cannot bear fruit. /When we repent, God renews our spirit. /He also guides us into hope.

/God gives us his warnings so that we may repent and be restored. /If he wants to destroy us, he will not give us a warning. /This is true because we will perish if he leaves us alone.

/Therefore, there is hope in discipline. God warns his believers to give them another opportunity. /Now we need to turn away from materialism and hedonism and repent and return to God.

/Verse 5. /The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt; Judah also shall stumble with them.

/Israel, in its sin, was not the least bit ashamed. /Rather, in their pride, the people did not bow their heads before God, nor did they repent. /They were not ashamed when they worshiped idols and lived a hedonistic lifestyle.

/The verse says that because of Israel's sin, Ephraim and Judah will stumble. /The verse is saying that three types of people will meet the same fate. /North Israel turned away from the word, and the leaders and the people turned away from God. This brought them into ruin.

/South Judah did not take heed of God's rebuke, so it will come to perish like North Israel. /Later on, Judah falls to Babylon.

/Verse 6. /With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.

/The people may pray, but there will be no answer; they may worship, but God will not show them grace. /If Israel's disobedience and rebellion continues, they will not be able to encounter God.

/If God decides to judge, there will be no use bringing the herds or flocks. /Therefore, we must repent before the day of God's judgment.

/Verse 7. /They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD; for they have borne alien children. Now the new moon shall devour them with their fields.

/Because Israel's people left God and worshiped idols, they were put to shame as if they bore illegitimate children. /This means that Israel's children will experience the shame of not knowing God.

/The verse says, "Now the new moon shall devour them with their fields." /They will not be able to give their offerings on the first day of the new moon because the new moon will be a month of judgment. /They will not be able to give their monthly new moon offerings.

/Instead, it will become a month of judgment. /We need to start our day in prayer. /If we listen to the word of God but do not understand and obey it, /there is no point in listening.

/Rather, such offerings will devour us with our fields. /Therefore we need to be obedient in our lives. /We need to be word-centered, God centered, and truth-centered.

/I will summarize Hosea 5:8-15. /Verses 8-14 predict Israel's punishment. /Verse 15 says that Israel will repent in its suffering. /God loves Israel, but we do not know how much he loved her.

/Like a man loving his wife, God loves us. /We can see this through the prophet Hosea's life in marriage. /Chapters 5 and 6 can be seen as the book's climax.

/The chapters are about God returning to Israel and intervening so that Israel will return to God. /God's words of warning are a form of God's love. /If he does not truly love them, he will not give warnings nor will he punish them. /This is true because even without his intervention, Israel would perish on its own by worshiping idols.

/Verses 8-15 are a declaration of judgment. /God declares it so that Israel will hear the message and repent. /God is also giving this message of warning to us today. /We must accept the message as something that is to be heard by our families, churches, and societies.

/Verse 8. / Blow the horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah. Sound the alarm at Beth-aven; we follow you, O Benjamin!

/Gibeah and Ramah are important cities of North Israel. /The verse says to blow the horn and the trumpet. /This is a sign for preparing for war. /It is a portrayal of the war that is to happen in Israel.

/God is saying he will punish Israel, who has fallen into materialism, hedonism, and secularism. /We can see God's willingness to bring Israel to realization through war. /Then and now, God intervenes in the lives of his beloved believers.

/The verse says, "We follow you, O Benjamin!" /This is a warning saying that the army that invades Israel will also invade Judah. /It means that Judah has sinned before God,

and it will be punished. /We need to have the wisdom of learning from the destruction of others.

/Verse 9. / Ephraim shall become a desolation in the day of punishment; among the tribes of Israel I make known what is sure.

/If they do not repent of their sins after hearing God's warning, the land will become a desolation. /After Assyria conquered Israel, it carried out the policy of annihilation. /Assyria relocated the people of Israel to other places.

/They moved the people to another place. /Because this happened, the land and the people were barren. /Israel may be a land flowing with milk and honey, but without God, it becomes desolate. /God says, "I will make known what is sure."

/After this prophecy is fulfilled, the people can realize that God holds the power to control history. /He wants us to realize this. /God is the one who controls the entire universe and all of creation.

/Verse 10. / The princes of Judah have become like those who move the landmark; upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.

/A landmark is a place on land that God has chosen as a sign of warning. /The verse tells them not to move the landmark. /The one who moves the landmark is to be cursed. /However, the corrupt people of Israel did not obey God's law.

/This brought upon God's wrath. /Today, moving the landmark carries this meaning. /It means to show discontent with God's standards, changing the standards so it suits us.

/We people must not change God's standards. /God says, "Upon them I will pour out my wrath like water." /This means that God's wrath will be poured out like water.

/We must be satisfied with the environment and grace that God has given to us. /When we abandon God and go into the world, God's wrath will pour out on us.

/Verse 11. / Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, because he was determined to go after filth.

/Man's commands go against God's commands. /Israel abandoned God's standards and his word, and she followed King Jeroboam. /The result of this was persecution and oppression.

/We believe we can prosper if we leave God and follow the ideas of man. /However, this will eventually lead to persecution and oppression. /We will fail if we abandon God and follow the trends of the world.

/Verse 12. / But I am like a moth to Ephraim, and like dry rot to the house of Judah.

/Moth and dry rot refer to the fatal beginnings of sickness. /God says he is the cause of this. /Because God is the one who reigns over them, they will not heal. /Moth and dry rot will slowly appear, and it will bring Israel to destruction.

/However, the one who is obedient is given grace like dew. /We must always be obedient. /When we do this, we will experience endless love and grace.

/Verse 13. / When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound.

/Israel begins to realize the problem as God intervenes. /Although she has understood the problem, Israel does not return to God. /Rather, the people go after Assyria, the nation that will destroy Israel in the future.

/By relying on foreign nations, they added another sin to their list of sins. /They should have come to realization and returned to God, but they did not. /We need to have a faith that repents and returns to God, a faith that knows how to trust in God.

/If we stubbornly rely on people, our condition gets worse. /Israel went to the Assyrian king to find healing. /However, Israel ended up being consumed by Assyria. /We must not trust in the world.

/We need to remember that persecution and oppression await us when we follow the commands of man. /We must not trust in the ways of man. /Let us look to God. /Let us wait for the power of God. /Then, God will think of us. /He will help us.

/Verse 14. / For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.

/God's judgment is carried out in two directions. /First, like a moth, it can slowly eat away at Israel until it is brought to destruction. /Second, it can be like a young lion that quickly devours and destroys. /How brutal is a starving, young lion?

/When we slowly grow weak, we must recognize what is happening and return to God. /If we leave God and trust in people, we will be consumed. /However, if we solely trust in God, he will shield us from the greatest forces.

/Verse 15. /I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.

/We need to come to understanding, become completely awake, and become humble. /We must look to God. /When we do this, God accepts us. /He accepts us because he loves us.

/There is hope for us there. /We may sin /seventy times seven times, but if we look to God and move forward, /if we repent of our sins, /our good God will accept us. /He will never abandon us.

/Isaiah 49:15 says this. / “Can a woman forget her nursing child, /that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? /Even these may forget, /yet I will not forget you.”

/Our good God, /the God who loves me, /is alive. /He helps us. /Therefore we must go back to him. /We need to be embraced by his love. /This is the main point of the book of Hosea. /We will conclude the lecture on Hosea 5.

/Now, we will start with Hosea 6. /The title of chapter 6 is “The Third Day.” /Verses 1-3 are about being raised up on the third day. /Verses 4-6 say that the LORD desires steadfast love. /Verses 7-11 say that God will judge those who transgress the covenant, and he will save those who repent.

/The chapter talks about resurrection on the third day. /Our Lord resurrected from the dead on the third day. /Verses 1-3 are telling us to return to God. /The main message of the text is about returning to God.

/The theme of 6:1-3 is the same as the theme of chapter 6. /It is about returning to God. /The chapter is on repenting and returning.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

/The verse reads, “Come, let us return to the LORD.” /The verse is not written in singular form, but it is written in plural form. /It is saying that not one, but everyone must return to God. /Repentance is not done alone.

/Complete repentance happens when an entire group or society repents. /We need to come to realize our spiritual hardships and misery and return to God. /We need to understand where we stand today and return to him. /This message is not given to the Israelites alone.

/It is a message for me. /It is a message for you. /It is God’s word that is given to all of us. /The Bible says that though our sin is as scarlet, we will be made as white as snow. /Although we may be red like scarlet, we will become white like sheep.

/We need to return to God. /This does not mean we should return to material possessions or to power. /We should not return to human ways or to pleasure. /We need to return to God. /Then, God will make us better again.

/The Lord may have struck us, but he will wrap us up again. /The message here has the following meaning. /If we return to God, he will show us his mercy. /He will accept us with his love.

/God is always waiting to accept those who return to him. /God does not break the bruised reed, nor does he quench the smoldering wick. /God does not make this covenant with everyone.

/He makes this covenant with his beloved children. /Therefore we believers always have hope. /We have the hope of having our sins forgiven and returning to God.

/Verse 2. /After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

/If we repent and return to God, God will heal us and restore us. /God will swiftly make this happen. /If we repent and return, our wounds will be rapidly healed.

/Our spirits will be healed quickly. /Our health and surroundings will promptly change. /God will revive us in two days, and he will raise us up on the third.

/Verse 3. /Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

/To return to the LORD, we must press on to know him. /If we come to know God’s love, mercy, sympathy, and forgiveness, we will surely return to God and repent. /In order for us to know these things, God must allow us to know them.

/Thus we need to pray that God gives us a heart of revelation. /To be spiritually healed and cured, we must press on to know God. /We need to work to read the Bible, pray, and give offerings.

/Depending on the extent of our efforts, God will allow us to discover his incredible world. /He will allow us to become more like him. /The verse says, “His going out is sure as the dawn.” /God’s world is the same yesterday and today.

/When night passes, dawn is sure to come. /In this way, God is constant as he rules in justice, grace, and principle. /He is not a fickle God who does this and then does that. /His standards for reward and punishment do not change.

/Thus we are able to believe in God. /People change. /Our personalities, promises, and trends change. /However, God is unchanging. /The verse says, “He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

/This means that if we return to God, God will rain down on us appropriate grace. /Like the early and late rains that fall in Israel, God will give us grace that is appropriate for the time. /The important thing is that we return to God.

/If we return to him, he will give us his appropriate grace at the right time. /If we need possessions, he will give us possessions. /If we need to become healthy, he will give us health. /If we need talent, he will give us talent.

/If we need people, God will send us people. /He is a good God who supplies us with everything we need. /May you experience God who comes upon you like the spring rain that wets the earth.

/Thank you. /This concludes the 4th lecture on the Minor Prophets.