

Hello. /Today, we will begin our sixth lecture on Hosea. /Our message begins with chapter 8. /Through the Ten Commandments, God said that we shall have no other gods before him. /God finds it detestable when we serve other gods.

/However, Israel abandoned the Living God, our Creator, and his word. /Instead, they served gods made from human hands. /They only desired worldly prosperity.

/Hosea prophesied that Israel would become subordinate to the nations of Assyria and Egypt. /As Hosea prophesied, the kingdom of North Israel fell to Assyria in 721 B.C. /In this way, if a person or a nation does not put their trust in God, God's judgment is inevitable.

/If anyone serves a religion, idea, or idol that is made by humans or seeks the pleasures of this world, they will be faced with God's judgment. /We need to lay down our idols and serve God. /North Israel left God and served idols in the height of their sins.

/At the time, they had fallen into moral corruption, and immoral behavior was rampant. /Thus, God is warning Israel through the prophet Hosea. /North Israel's spiritual problem was serving the calf as if it were God.

/By putting their faith in the calf, they lowered God into the image of an obedient God. /And their spirituality had become inconsistent, only asking for things they needed. /They no longer obeyed the commandments, nor did they receive discipline.

/They only asked for things to their god. /They believed God fulfilled their wishes and only observed them in their sin. /But we must know that our relationship with God is a covenant relationship. /It is like a married couple's relationship, each with their own duties.

/When we live according to the word and to the commandments, God shows love to a thousand generations. /The people of Israel did not think this way. /They thought their relationship with God was an absolute relationship. /They believed that no matter how sinful they behaved, God would forgive them because they are Abraham's descendants.

/The title of Hosea chapter 8 is "Breaking the Covenant." /Verses 1-7 are about invasions by foreign nations because of sin. /Verses 8-10 are about Israel becoming weaker as they depend on other nations. /Verses 11-13 tell of Israel's empty offerings.

/In verse 14, God punishes those who built a fortress for themselves instead of trusting in God. /We need to hold onto our covenant with God.

/Verse 1. Please read. /Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law.

/The verse says to “set the trumpet to your lips.” /A trumpet is used to announce the coming of the enemy. /It is also used during a season of joy. /In this verse, the trumpet is used to sound a warning.

/The enemy came like a vulture over the house of the LORD. /Today, the believer is the house of the LORD. /North Israel did not have a house of God. /But the verse tell us that an enemy is over the house of the LORD. /This is referring to the people of Israel, who are the house of God.

/Even though they are houses of the LORD, God punishes them when they abandon God. /A vulture comes and snatches them away. /In this way, God’s judgment will fall on those who abandon God. /Jesus’s second coming will happen suddenly as well.

/The verse says, “They have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law.” /Transgressing the covenant means distrusting God. /When we believe in God’s word, it becomes our own. /When we obey, we are able to gain.

/When we believe in the message that says believe, find, and knock on the door, we receive. /Here is a cup of water. /Let us imagine there is poison in the cup. /If we offer you ten thousand dollars, would you drink the poison? /If we offered you one hundred thousand dollars, would you drink it?

/We know that we will die if we drink the poison. /Therefore, even without drinking it, we believe that it is poisonous. /No matter how much money someone offers us, we will not drink it. /Therefore when we have true faith, our actions will follow. /Because Israel did not trust in God, they did not follow the covenant. /That was their sin.

/Verse 2. /To me they cry, “My God, we—Israel—know you.”

/After Israel is severely punished by God, the people cry out to him. /But since they only know God through their knowledge, God does not answer their cries. /We are only blessed when God says he knows us.

/It is of no use saying we know God only when we are in an emergency. /We can cry out to God like the Israelites did. /We can say, “God, we love you.” / “We know you so well.” / “We serve you God.”

/We can talk like this, but as it says in verse 3, we must observe ourselves to see if we hate to do good.

/Verse 3. /Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him.

/The verse says, “Israel has spurned the good.” /The greatest good as the Bible explains is faith. /Also, it is doing the work of God. /When the people of Israel left God and paid no attention to him, they were hating goodness.

/God wanted to keep Israel a nation of priests. /He wanted to use them in the history of salvation and to bless them. /But when they pushed the word of God aside and became a part of the world, God had no choice but to punish them.

/We must not take lightly God's warnings to us. /The warning God gives to Israel is the warning he is giving to us. /That is why God recorded the Bible and gave it to all believers to read for many generations.

/Verse 1 tells the people to put the trumpet to their lips, but we must accept this message of warning. /Then, we need to spread the warning to others.

/Verse 4. /They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.

/The verse says, "They made kings, but not through me. /After North Israel was divided from the South, it had 18 kings in 250 years. /However, most of the kings did not naturally become kings, but rose to kingship through revolutions.

/God appointed David as shepherd. /God said he would use the rod of men and stripes of the sons of men to appoint kings. /However, Israel disliked God who was their shepherd.

/They wanted to raise their own kings and live freely. /And the king they appointed led the people in serving the idol calf. /In this way, when humans are given freedom, they become corrupt.

/They did not serve God as king. /They appointed human beings as their king. /Their kings did not lead the people to God, but they led them to idols. /As a result, Israel experienced suffering and destruction.

/We need to serve God as our personal king. /When we do this, we have peace and hope.

/Verse 5. /I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?

/Samaria's calf idol was abandoned. /God's children had left God to serve a golden calf. /But the golden calf was destroyed with the people.

/Verse 6. /For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.

/How can manmade objects and statues become gods? /An idol is made by humans; therefore, it is inferior to humans. /How can such an idol give blessings to people? /These idols are eventually destroyed.

/Today, many people believe they can be received blessings from idols and objects. /This is a foolish belief. /Idols and false leaders are like thieves who bring destruction to the soul. /We must not fall for these things.

/Verse 7. /For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.

/The verse says, “For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.” /The wind is a metaphor for human efforts. /Any human effort without God does not bear any fruit. /In the beginning, there is a gentle wind.

/Later on, the wind becomes a whirlwind. /A wind is sowed, but a whirlwind comes back to destroy everything. /Because the people angered God in serving an idol, their expectation comes back in the form of anger.

/The people who abandoned God and followed material goods eventually lost everything. /Yes, this is true. /When a believer leaves God, there is no success. /Even when it seems like we are succeeding, it only benefits foreign people. /We need to manage everything in our lives through faith.

/Verse 8. /Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel.

/Israel has not yet perished. /But God speaks as if it is already swallowed up. /God treats the past and the future as the present. /Because Israel’s destruction had already been decided, God speaks in the past tense.

/Israel had become a useless vessel. /This means that the nations did not like Israel. /Israel was God’s nation, but because it was not used by God, it became a broken vessel.

/In this way, Israel became a vessel that was abandoned and despised. /No matter how valuable a vessel may be, it is empty without God. /We must serve God as our center, and then he will honor us and use us.

/Verse 9. /For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers.

/A wild donkey is an untamed animal, so it wanders alone and cannot be used for anything. /Israel, when it left God, became a useless wild donkey. /They wandered about here and there, but they could not be satisfied.

/When Israel wandered around, it only criticized others. /Therefore, it was not helpful to anyone. /The verse says, “Ephraim has hired lovers. /Much like lovers who pay for love, Israel paid money.

/Israel paid tributes to strong nations like Assyria and trusted in them. /However, although Israel served Assyria, it eventually was consumed by Assyria. /In 2 Kings chapter 15, Israel offers one thousand talents and asks for Assyria's favor.

/But as we know, Israel was eventually destroyed by Assyria. /When we trust in the Almighty God, we are respected by the world. /On the other hand, if we leave God and serve idols, we are abandoned.

/As believers, we must not put our trust in objects, the world, power, or people. /God is the only one in which we need to put our trust.

/Verse 10. /Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather them up. And the king and princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute.

/God's nation of Israel did not trust the Lord, but offered tributes and depended on other nations. /Through this, Israel became weaker. /To keep their power, kings offered tributes to nations and relied on them.

/God brought Israel to its downfall because of this. /Yes, this is true. /When we leave God to trust in the powers of the world, we are brought to destruction because of the world.

/Verse 11. /Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, they have become to him altars for sinning.

/The house of God belongs in one place. /However, the Israelites established numerous altars. /Those altars became altars for sin. /When faith becomes corrupt, believers do not repent in their sin.

/Instead, they offered many offerings of thanks and of vows. /Israel had come to this state. /The number of shrines grew. /They had tried to gain whatever they could. /But they were not altars of repentance and returning to God.

/The altars had become places for seeking their worldly abundance. /It is important that our faith is consistent with God's word. /If it is not, it becomes sin before God.

/Verse 12. /Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands, they would be regarded as a strange thing.

/To bring his people back to him, God recorded ten thousand laws for them. /God clearly and in detail gave them every law they needed for every aspect of their lives. /However, God's children considered the laws to be unrelated to them. /Because they did this, they were punished by God.

/Verse 13. /As for my sacrificial offerings, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the LORD does not accept them. Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

/In the Old Testament, sacrificial offerings could not be eaten by anyone. /The offerings had to be burned completely. /Sin offerings were to be burned in blood and oil. /The meat was only to be eaten by the priest. /However, the people of Israel freely ate the meat used in the offerings.

/The Israelites did not give offerings as they were instructed. /They gave offerings in the ways they served idols. /As a result, they returned to Egypt. /They returned to the place where they had been slaves. /They had become slaves of the world.

/Verse 14. /For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities; so I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour her strongholds.

/Israel had forgotten its Maker, and God's people did not trust in God. /They built palaces and fortresses and relied on them. /For this reason, God says he will send a fire that will devour the cities.

/If we leave God and depend on something else, God destroys whatever we trust in. /He does this so that we will once again put our faith in God. /The conclusion for chapter 8 is this. /We need to live with the word as our center.

/We need to trust in God and God alone. /We need to be a clean vessel that God can use. /We must love good when we live our lives. /We must not cry out to God only when we are in need.

/Also, we must not have a self-centered faith. /We need to be centered on the word of God. /This is the conclusion for chapter 8.

/Now, we will begin with chapter 9. /Hosea tells Israel, who had once served God, to listen to God's warnings and return to him. /The title of chapter 9 is "The Foolish Prophet." /We will begin with the main points. /Verses 1-6: God punishes those who rejoice with foreign people. /Verses 7-9: God punishes the foolish prophets.

/Verses 10:12: God rebukes Israel for leaving its first love. /Verses 13-17: Israel is prosperous, but perishes because of its evil.

/Verse 1. Please read. /Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors.

/God says that Israel loved the prostitute's wages. /This means that Israel enjoyed its prosperity while serving idols. /The verse reveals the Israelites' corrupt faith.

/Even though the Israelites faced difficulties when serving idols, they argued that they were better off serving idols. /There are people who speak in this way today.

/Some people complain that they were well-off when they did not believe, but when they started believing, things became worse for them. /Israel rejoiced when it became prosperous. But the truth is, Israel should have been joyful when God was with him.

/We need to find joy in God, not when we gain the world's riches and abundance. /The joy of the harvest is the result of blessings from God. /However, Israel's joy came from fleshly ways and the indulgence in the things of the world.

/For this reason, God says he will punish Israel. /We must not push aside spiritual joy and life for the happiness and pleasure of the world. /We must not separate worship and our lives. /For our worship to be pure, our lives must first be pure.

/Verse 2. /Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them.

/God's judgment is now coming upon Israel. /God says he will make it so that they are unable to thresh. /They will not be able to harvest new grapes. /God had given territory and farmland to his people, and he wanted them to live holy and beautiful lives.

/Despite this, Israel lived like a person of the world, living in drunkenness and selfishness. /God could not longer give his special grace to Israel. /The people of Israel believed they could gain something without God.

/When the day of God's judgment comes, they will know that they cannot gain from human ways.

/Verse 3. /They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.

/The verse says Ephraim will return to Egypt. / "Return to Egypt" means the people will once again become the world's slaves. /The verse also says, "They shall eat unclean food in Assyria. /By this, God is saying the people will eat food sacrificed to idols.

/Now that the people refuse holy food and holy life, they will be moved to a dirty land where they live in worldly ways. /The people of Israel did not realize the grace and power of God, so they loved the world. /They lost God's blessing and became a slave of the world.

/Verse 4. /They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners' bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the LORD.

/Israel had become a slave to foreign nations, so although it wanted to give offerings to God, it could not. /When they bring offerings to God, it will become like mourners' bread. /Because they were unfaithful to God, God could not accept their sacrifice.

/Without a proper faith in God and a godly lifestyle, there cannot be proper worship.

/Verse 5. /What will you do on the day of the appointed festival, and on the day of the feast of the LORD?

/The festival is speaking of the Sabbath and the first day of the month. /The LORD's days are days made special by God, such as the Passover, the Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. /During these periods, the Israelites did not serve God, but they took the time as an opportunity to serve idols.

/In Christian holidays today, people forget about worshiping God and seek human pleasure. /Christian faith has changed for the worse and has become corrupt. /This will eventually bring upon the judgment of God.

/Verse 6. /For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.

/Israel followed the world and entered Egypt, only to be swallowed by Egypt. /Their land became barren, nettles covered them, and thorns were everywhere. /They chose Egypt as the destination for their final escape.

/God did not allow their plan to succeed, but he allowed them to be captured. /Where we live is not important, but with whom we live is important. /Where is safe is not important, but who protects us is.

/If we live in a dangerous land and God protects us, the place becomes a safe zone. /If we live without much, but God protects us, it becomes a dwelling place where we can relax. /If we do not follow Jesus, the alternative place we go to becomes our Egypt or Assyria.

/Verse 7. /The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred.

/God says there will be days of punishment and days of recompense. /The reason is the prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit has gone mad. /God's prophets must correctly teach the will of God.

/However, the prophets lost their minds and went crazy. /As a result, the prophets did not rebuke the people, but they taught them materialism, secularism, and hedonism. /Consequently, the prophets and the people both perished.



/God says, “Because of your great iniquity and great hatred.” /The people of Israel had sinned greatly and showed great hatred. /That is why God sent crazy prophets to lead the people into corruption and eventually judgment. /Meeting such corrupt prophets became a huge disaster for the people.

/Verse 8. /The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

/Ephraim is North Israel's representative tribe. /The tribe of Ephraim should have led the people in the right direction, but they did not. /The prophet had to take on the role of watchman.

/However, the prophets lead the people into darkness. /We need to follow leaders who have proper teachings. /We need to follow leaders who know how to rebuke us. /When we do this, we will be able to live.

/Verse 9. /They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.

/The evil in the days of Gibeah are recorded in Judges chapter 19. /During that time, people did as they pleased. /They claimed to serve God, but they worshiped idols in their corruption. /As a result, many people were killed. /Everyone but 600 men from the tribe of Benjamin was killed.

/This ends the sixth lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.