

Hello. /We will begin our seventh lecture on Hosea. /The main message starts from Hosea chapter 9 verse 10. /In verses 10-12, God rebukes Israel for leaving its first love.

/Verse 10. Please read. /Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved.

/How exciting would it be to find ripe grapes in the wilderness? /When God first found Israel, he felt like he found grapes in the wilderness. /It was like travelling in a desert with no trees and discovering ripe grapes.

/God's joy was like seeing the first fruits of a fig tree after 5 or 6 years of planting it. /How great God's joy must have been? /Out of all the nations, Israel was the only one to know God.

/Israel was a nation that knew holiness, love, and God's will. /God treasured Israel so much that he placed them in the land of Canaan. /In this way, God reveals his affection and interest for the people he has chosen.

/Zephaniah 16 says, "He will rejoice over you with gladness" and "He will quiet you by his love. /God values his chosen people and he loves them very much.

/Despite all of this, Israel served Baal of Peor, which God hated and despised. /Instead of praising and thanking God who had led them and saved them, the Israelites served idols like the people of foreign nations. /Like the foreign people, they worshiped idols on their threshing floors.

/They also came to a place where they became obsessed with pleasures of the flesh. /God did not plant them in Canaan so that he could see them this way. /God's love changed into hatred, and it became wrath that meant destruction for the nation. /Israel had changed, and it could no longer stay in the land of the LORD.

/Verse 11. /Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird— no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!

/The word Ephraim means "fruitful" or "prosperous." /But when they served Baal, Israel's glory flew away like a bird. /There will be no birth or pregnancy, and the nation will be annihilated.

/Even with an excellent name, if someone does not trust in God or follow him in faith, there can only be an ending that is opposite from the meaning of the name. /As our name as believers, we need to live according to our position and duties.

/Also, we need to live according to our age, living in ways that bring God joy. /When the verse says there was no birth or pregnancy, it means Israel's precious faith had failed to continue to the next generation.

/In a family, church or nation, there is only hope when the children have faith. /If faith is not passed down, hope for the future disappears. /Therefore, we need to raise our children in faith.

/We must pray in truth, praise God in tears, and read the Bible with a sincere heart to see the power of spiritual revival. /In the past, there have been these events, but now, they are becoming more rare.

/Verse 12. /Even if they bring up children, I will bereave them till none is left. Woe to them when I depart from them!

/When God leaves someone, they will lose everything. /Their wealth rapidly becomes less. /If we do not live like God's children, we will perish and we will cover the glory of God.

/When people made in God's image live according to God's will in their lives, God protects them and makes them prosperous. /Verses 13-17 tell of Israel's wealth made possible by God's grace, but because of its evil, Israel meets its downfall.

/If Ephraim had obeyed God's word, it would have become like the prosperous coastal city of Tyre. /But because it left God for the world, it entered the world of death. /If we follow the ways of the Lord, we will become powerful and prosperous.

/When we follow the world for happiness, we are led down a road of destruction. /How often do we see this happening around us? /We must respond to God when he calls us with joy and anticipation.

/To not disappoint God in his joy and anticipation, we must keep running in our faith. /Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." /As we pray for these things, we can enjoy all the good things that come from God.

/Verse 14. /Give them, O LORD— what will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

/Because the Israelites worshiped idols, their descendants will perish. /Gilgal was originally a place where they Israelites set up stones to remember the crossing of the Jordan River. /The place that was once meaningful and important became a nest of idols, and God despised it. /Gilgal was once a place of grace, a place remembering God's grace, but now it had become a nest for worshiping idols.

/Verse 16. /Ephraim is stricken; their root is dried up; they shall bear no fruit. Even though they give birth, I will put their beloved children to death.

/The verse says that Ephraim's root is dried up and it will bear no fruit. /Even if they were to give birth, God would put the children to death. /This means that Ephraim would completely perish.

/This happens because Ephraim, having such a beautiful and prosperous name, betrayed God's grace. /Thus, God abandons them and lets them perish like a dried up root and a fruitless tree.

/Verse 17. /My God will reject them because they have not listened to him; they shall be wanderers among the nations.

/God says he will reject them and make them wanderers among the nations. /As God said, South Judah suffered 70 years of captivity in Babylon, but returned by the grace of God.

/However, the tribes of the North were taken to Assyria and became mixed with the people there, and the nation was destroyed. /They ignored the prophet Hosea's warnings until the very end. /I will now give the conclusion of chapter 9.

/God's words of warning are never intended to destroy us. /The message wants us to repent and quickly return to God. /If God wanted to destroy the people, he would not have given them any warning. /They would have perished on their own.

/We need to accept God's message with our hearts, repent of our sins, and receive the blessings he gives to us. /This is the conclusion of chapter 9.

/We will now begin the lecture on Hosea chapter 10. Hosea chapter 10 is about God's judgment of two types of sins. /The two sins were abandoning God and trusting in something other than God.

/We must not fall into these two sins. /Verses 1-8 are about religious corruption that causes Israel's destruction.

/Verse 1. Please read. /Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars.

/God calls Israel a luxuriant vine that yields fruit. /Why did God compare Israel to a grape vine? /A grape vine has no other value than producing fruit. /It cannot be used as lumber.

/A vine does not have beautiful flowers. /The fruits are the only beautiful and desirable part of the plant. /In God's eyes, Israel was useless. /But God poured his grace on them so that they may bear precious fruit.

/God saved us from sin and gave us grace so that we may bear beautiful fruit. /But how did Israel behave? /As Israel's fruit increased, it built more altars and improved its pillars.

/God graced Israel with prosperity, and the people became wealthy. /The wealthier they became, the Israelites sinned by building altars for idols and making them look beautiful. /Israel should have built one altar for God and no one else.

/But they built numerous altars to worship idols. /We need to know the following message. /Humans are prone to sin, and we abuse the grace of God to betray him.

/If we receive God's grace, we need to obey God in our lives. /However, with the abundant wealth God gave to them, the Israelites committed more acts of sin. /We need to bear this in mind.

/God gives us prosperity and security so that we may do things that are fruitful and valuable. /As grace makes us more abundant, we need to spread the Gospel and do things that please God.

/Verse 2. /Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.

/God scolds Israel for having two hearts. /One heart served God while the other served idols. /Elijah also rebuked the people, asking them, "How long will you hesitate between the two?"

/He told them to follow the LORD if he is God. /He told them to follow Baal if Baal is God. /An easy way for us to sin is to have these two hearts. /It means believing in God but following the world at the same time.

/Believers act like believers within the church, but when they go out into the world, they become like people of the world. /When we serve God and devote ourselves to him, we must not have two hearts. /He is joyful when we give him offerings and sacrifices with all of our hearts.

/God said he would break down the altars and destroy the pillars. /God says he will use force on them. /God means to intervene so that Israel will no longer worship idols.

/Verse 3. /or now they will say: "We have no king, for we do not fear the LORD; and a king—what could he do for us?"

/The people thought they did not need a ruling king or God. /They refused to be ruled by anyone. /Rather, they wanted to live freely without anyone reigning over them.

/Why didn't they want a leader? /The reason is a leader points out sin and interferes in their lives. /The prodigal son had the same idea when he left his father's house. /We need to be thankful for our nation's leaders and our rightful superiors.

/There is no leader for anyone who is to perish. /Therefore, we must pray for our kings and our countries. /We need to pray for the leaders of our nations. /Also, when God's people of the church stand properly before God, the nation will stand strong.

/Verse 4. /They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

/They uttered mere words and made empty oaths. /By this, the verse is saying the people gave false witnesses and oaths that made for dishonest trials. /Along with their religious passion, they were committing acts of injustice. /The result of their actions was poisonous weeds.

/The verse says, "Judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field." /The poisonous weeds here are poisonous herbs. /These plants give pain, similarly to how poison ivy causes boils when brushed against.

/The people had become givers of pain much like the poisonous weeds of the field. /Anyone receiving God's grace should become a faithful stalk of grain in the field and bear good fruit. /Israel bore fruit that was opposite to that.

/Verse 5. /The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous priests— those who rejoiced over it and over its glory— for it has departed from them.

/"The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. /"The inhabitants of Samaria" refers to North Israel. / "Beth-aven" is another word for Bethel. /At the time, the sins of the Israelites were at a critical condition.

/God's judgment made Samaria a desolate place. /The idols were taken away. /But these people thought they were being punished for improperly serving the calf. /Those who were serving the idols were not afraid of God's judgment. /Instead, they believed they were under the wrath of their idols because of their improper ways of worship.

/Verse 6. /The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria as tribute to the great king. Ephraim shall be put to shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol.

/The calf that the Israelites served became a tribute to the king of Assyria. /Normally, idols are expensive because they are considered to be cultural assets. /As the Israelites perished, so did the idol they worshiped.

/The verse says, "Israel shall be ashamed of his idol." /Leaving God out of their lives, they believed that serving Baal and Asherah would bring them abundance.

/However, all of their plans came to nothing, and they were ashamed. /Although we may have amazing dreams in this world without God, in the end, it will all come to nothing.

/Verse 7. /Samaria's king shall perish like a twig on the face of the waters.

/The king of Samaria will perish like a twig on the face of the waters. /A king without God will become a powerless twig on the face of the waters. /The king's power becomes a twig on the waters. /Israel abandoned God and relied on their king. /Consequently, their idols failed and so did the king.

/Verse 8. /The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, "Cover us," and to the hills, "Fall on us."

/The people of Israel served the idol at Beth-aven. /Then the place became a heap of ruins. /In the past, it had been a place where God's grace was at work. /However, in the eyes of God, it had now become a place of evil.

/For this reason, God said he would completely destroy the place. /Verses 9-11 say two sins will bring upon a heavy yoke.

/Verse 9. /From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah?

/The days of Gibeah were extremely evil days. /Because of their evil, everyone but 600 people from the tribe of Benjamin was killed. /And although Israel knew about this history, it continued to repeat the sins.

/They did not repent of their sin, but they stood by their sin and eventually perished. /When we observe the message, we can see that the events of the Bible are warnings given to us.

/The verse says, "Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah?"

/The verse is saying that God has been patiently waiting for them in the midst of their sin. /Although God was patient, they continued to sin. /Now, there is only judgment left for the people.

/We will read Proverbs 29:1. /He who is often reprov'd, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing. /We must be careful not to be in this position, and we need to look back on our sins when God rebukes us.

/Verse 10. /When I please, I will discipline them, and nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity.

/God does not immediately punish people for their sins. /He waits for the right time to carry out his judgment. /If we assume that we have avoided judgment because God has not yet punished us, we are wrong.

/We need to remember that God knows everything. /God can judge us whenever and however he wishes to. /God said, “Nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity.”

/ “Double iniquity” is the sin of leaving God to serve sin and idols. /We must remember that when we are guilty of double iniquity, God’s loving judgment will come upon us.

/Verse 11. /Ephraim was a trained calf that loved to thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will put Ephraim to the yoke; Judah must plow; Jacob must harrow for himself.

/Trained calves are used to thresh for the harvest. /The best calves were the ones that were trained to thresh. /On the other hand, an untrained calf must wear a yoke and plow the soil.

/During the harvest, trained calves enjoy threshing because they have much to eat. /The Israelites were much like the calf that enjoyed the harvest. /But God’s judgment came upon them and they wore a yoke around their neck, working in pain with someone riding their back.

/Israel in its abundance and freedom did not use what it had for God, so it was taken away to a foreign land. /Freedom and abundance were taken away and a life of suffering began.

/We must use our freedom and abundance for God. /When we do this, God will be pleased and give us more than what we have.

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