

Hello. /We will begin our ninth lecture on Hosea. /The topic of Hosea chapter 12 is God's persistent love. /Israel could not lay down its foul tendencies, and it continued to betray God and live apart from him.

/But God persistently chases after Israel to have them surrender and become children of God. /Here, we have our hope. /I will give you the main points of the lecture.

/Verses 1-2: God rebukes Israel's unrighteousness and its sin of working with foreign nations. /Verses 3-6: God wants Israel to learn from Jacob's faith. /Verses 7-8: Israel is untruthful. /Verses 9-14: Making God angry will bring about punishment. /In verses 1-2, God rebukes Israel's unrighteousness.

/Verse 1. Please read. /Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.

/Israel fed on the wind and pursued the east wind. /Israel left God and followed the wild dreams of the world. /The "wind" refers to the world's customs, trends, and empty habits.

/Everything of the world is meaningless, so there is nothing to be gained from it. /We need to return from our foolish ways of chasing after the winds of the world. /Ecclesiastes 1:2 says, "Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless!"

/The things of the world give no life, but are merely shells. /The "east wind" refers to the custom of worshipping idols. /We need to turn away from serving idols and return to a place of serving God.

/Verse 2. /The LORD has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds.

/Israel, abandoning God, tried to live in human ways, but it perished. /When they did not realize their wrongdoings and continued walking on that road, God punishes them.

/God judges Israel according to its actions, and Israel reaps what it sows. /Even today, God repays us according to our actions. /The law of reaping what you sow is still applicable today. /In verses 3-6, God tells them to learn from Jacob's faith.

/Verses 3-4. /In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us—

/God tells Israel to follow the example of Jacob's faith. /Jacob was chosen when he was in the womb. /When he was born, he entered the world by grabbing his brother's heel. /If we look at this spiritually, we can see that even from the womb, Jacob longed for God's blessing and grace.

/In his manhood, Jacob wrestled an angel at the Jabbok River. /His brother Esau brought 400 strong men with him when he met Jacob. /400 of them were armed with swords. /Esau was trying to kill Jacob.

/Esau remembered the things that Jacob did to him in the past. /When Jacob was in this kind of danger, he prayed to God at the Jabbok River. /He wrestled with the angel there. / He was wrestling with God.

/This means that Jacob prayed to God with an earnest heart. /When he did this, God met with Jacob. /God wrestled with Jacob. /God intentionally lost to Jacob in the wrestling match. /God does not lose to human beings.

/Like a parent who loses an arm-wrestling match to his son, God also lost to Jacob. /Jacob held onto God all night long. /Jacob tried to win God over with his character. /However, God struck Jacob's hip.

/If a person is struck in the hip, that person cannot stand up. /God wanted Jacob to repent. /Jacob had won, but when he was injured, he realized something. /He realized that he cannot defeat God!

/He understood this and earnestly asked for God's blessing. /God listened to Jacob, and he blessed him. /Jacob came to know God and trust in him completely, and he also came to a place of repentance.

/In the end, God's will was victorious. /We, too, must seek God earnestly like Jacob did. / Then, we will receive God's blessing in whatever environment and circumstance.

/God met Jacob at Bethel. /In the place where God met him, Jacob set up a stone. /He anointed the stone and named it Bethel. / "Bethel" means "House of God."

/God appeared before Jacob and promised to bless him. /The God who met Jacob at Bethel also meets with us and gives us his word. /The word that God gave to Jacob will also be given to us today.

/Verses 5-6. /the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is his memorial name: "So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God."

/ "The God of hosts" means the God of many armies. /God is almighty, and he wins every war. /With his power, God heals us and makes us new. /He always keeps his side of the covenant.

/We need to look towards God. /Like Jacob, we must return to God. /And like the word says, we must be loving and honest. /Also, we must look towards God and God alone.

/If we do this, we will certainly experience the work of God in our lives. /In verses 7-8, Israel thinks itself truthful, but it is actually untruthful.

/Verse 7. /A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress.

/ “Merchant” refers to a bad tradesman. /Israel behaved like a bad merchant. /When Israel weighed the scale, it used two types of scales. /They rejected God’s justice and raised money in inappropriate ways.

/We can see this kind of poor nature in Jacob’s character. /Jacob used his uncle to become a wealthy man. /He then took his wealth and his wives and left the place.

/We as believers must not desire to gain riches by dishonest means. /We should value the small earnings that we gain through honest ways. /When we do this, God rejoices.

/Verse 8. /Ephraim has said, “Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin.”

/Israel earned riches in ways that did not make God happy. /But they claimed to have gathered their wealth in honest ways. /They claimed that what they were doing was not sinful.

/People living in ways in which God does not approve should fear God. /They think they are being honest and feel no guilt of sin, but God knows everything. /They cannot fool their conscience nor can they deceive God.

/When we listen to those who go against the law, there seems to be logic in what they say. /They give a reason for their behavior and say that they are not committing sin. /However, it is not the right way to act before God.

/Verse 9. /I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents, as in the days of the appointed feast.

/Verses 9-14 urge the people to not make God angry. /God in his power called Israel out of Egypt. /He rescued them when they were slaves. /The Israelites did not know God’s grace, and they left him to fall into the ways of the world.

/Therefore, God made them live in tents as wanderers. /We must not forget the grace God has given us. /If we do, God may send us back to the days when we had difficult lives.

/We must not forget the fact that God rescued us. /When we become more affluent in this world, we must grow closer to God. /Also, we need to think about how we can give joy to God each and every day.

/Verse 10. /I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables.

/Before God unleashed his wrath, he always sent his prophets first. /God guided his people, and he admonished them with his word. /Whoever returns to God during these times is a wise person.

/If God warns us but we do not listen to him, we will face bad consequences. /There is a reason we are in this world. /That is to serve the God of Bethel in our lives. /How are we to fall into the world and live without God?

/Like Jesus taught us, we must always live for the glory of God. /Jesus said, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." /He also told us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. /Then, he will give all things unto us. /We need to have a heart that always seeks to bring God joy.

/Verse 11. /If there is iniquity in Gilead, they shall surely come to nothing: in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls; their altars also are like stone heaps on the furrows of the field.

/Gilead is a land to the east of the Jordan River. /It was the land that the tribes of Reuben and Gad had first received. /Gilgal was the first land the Israelites occupied after they crossed the Jordan River. /Gilead and Gilgal were the starting points of God's promise of the land of Canaan.

/However, the Israelites turned these places of grace into nests of idols. /Because of this, God said he would first judge these places. /It did not matter that these places were once places of memorable grace.

/When we leave God, God judges us. /It may be a temple, but God will still judge the temple. /God may have saved Israel in the past, but God will judge Israel. /Faith of the past is not important. /It is the present that is important.

/We may have been phenomenal in the past, but we must stand properly today. /It is very important that we keep our first love and first faith until the very end.

/Verses 12-13. /Jacob fled to the land of Aram; there Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep. By a prophet the LORD brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet he was guarded.

/Jacob left the land in his own greed. /He ran away and guarded sheep for a wife. /God sent his prophets to lead and protect the Israelites, who are Jacob's descendants. /This is God's love.

/God's people chased after the desires of the flesh, /but God guided them and protected them in his love for them. /God's love is unconditional love. /He leads us with his unconditional love.

/Thus there is life and salvation in God. /There is protection, rest, and security in God.
/We must not reject God's love.

/Verse 14. /Ephraim has given bitter provocation; so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him and will repay him for his disgraceful deeds.

/The verse says God will bring them shame. /God says he will send a war that smells of blood. /This is because they casted aside God's infinite love for them. /They justified their sin and left God.

/Israel became corrupt and the nation lost hope. /In the same way, when believers become corrupt, there is no hope for the nation. /The world may become corrupt, but we believers must be godly. /When we do this, the world will operate properly.

/I will give the conclusion in several points. /First, we must change our nature. /There is unending conflict between our nature and god's nature. /God wants to change us and adopt us as sons.

/The person of the past chases after the desires of this world. /Eventually, God wins the battle. /If we do not surrender to God, our hip bone will be broken. /Then, we will come crying to God and follow him.

/God's passion brought Jacob to surrender to him. /God calls us to live as noble priests. /Serving God is our life and our privilege. /We must always serve God and come to a place where we worship him.

/Dear believers! Please go closer to God. /And kiss his feet and his hands. /That is the meaning of worship. /I hope you live blessed lives worshiping and serving God everyday.

/We will now study Hosea chapter 13. /The title of Hosea 13 is "Redemption." /God's people, the Israelites, abandoned God and worshiped idols. /Israel was like Hosea's wife, the woman who left her husband for other men.

/The book of Hosea says Israel had become that detestable. /The unfaithful wife had left her husband for other men. /It gave the husband great pain.

/God who is our husband feels great pain as well. /He warns us through the prophet Hosea. /He wants us to return from our sin.

/Here are the main points of chapter 13. /Verses 1-3: Ephraim loses its authority and perishes because of its sin. /Verses 4-8: Because they left God, they meet their downfall. /Verses 9-13: When God's wrath is upon them, no one can save them. /Verses 14-16: God's promise of salvation and his punishment. /Verses 1-3 explain the reasons for Israel's demise.

/Verse 1. Please read. /When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; he was exalted in Israel, but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.

/Ephraim is North Israel's representative tribe. /Ephraim's brother is Manasseh. /However, Ephraim became more powerful than Manasseh. /This happened when Jacob blessed Joseph's two sons.

/Jacob used his right hand to bless Ephraim, the second son. /The tribe of Ephraim became powerful and prosperous, as Jacob had blessed Ephraim. /When the tribe of Ephraim spoke, the other tribes trembled.

/Many leaders emerged from the tribe of Ephraim. /They had a large population. /The tribe was influential and authoritative. /But as the tribe of Ephraim grew stronger and higher, it became proud. /As a result, it elevated itself.

/The people forgot God's grace and fell into pride. /It is easy for us to become like Ephraim. /We need to acknowledge the fact that God has given everything we have right now.

/We must not owe it to our skills, our efforts, or our intelligence. /They did not know everything they had was the result of God's grace. /They served Baal and perished. /There is a reason the prideful serve idols. /Prideful people who chase after their greed and wishes are bound to follow idols. /Worshipping idols is the same as worshipping one's self. /To gain what they want, these people make gods and serve them.

/Verse 2. /And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of them, "Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!"

/The verse says they sinned more and more. /God intervened, and he pressed them to repent. /However, they continued in their sin. /God does not hastily destroy us when we go our own ways.

/God gives us time and urges us in multiple ways to come back to him. /He uses prophets, our environment, and events in our lives to warn us. /The wise person immediately realizes God's advice and returns to him.

/But the foolish person keeps going his way into destruction. /This is important. /When God sends his message to us, we must go back to God.

/Verse 3. /Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.

/God says they will be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away. /The people abandoned God to serve idols and commit sins of pride. /In the end, there was nothing left for them.

/Moses also spoke in Psalm 90:10. / “The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty.” /Our days on the earth pass by quickly. /Anything gained without God will soon disappear.

/It is the same for our families, countries, and businesses. /In the short lives we live, we must acknowledge God at all times. /We must believe that God has given us everything and be thankful. /We must live according to God’s will.

/If we do this, the Lord will let us grow, become prosperous, and become glorious. /We need to live under these blessings. /In verses 4-8, the people of Israel leave God and perish.

/Verse 4. /But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior.

/God is the only Almighty being. /His name is Jehovah. /He endures forever on his own. /The Almighty God loves us, saves us, and helps us. /God gifts his grace on us.

/Not long ago, I saw a wild duck living in the city. /In the harsh environment, it had laid nine eggs. /Eventually, all nine eggs had hatched. /In its surroundings, there were cats and dogs.

/But the duck risked its life to protect those eggs. /It also protected its babies. /The duck rescued its children from the many dangers it faced. /Eventually, it took its ducklings to the stream.

/The wild duck loves its children and protects them. /Mother gorillas raise their children in their mouths. /God loves us much more than these animals do. /Let us trust in him. /He is our Savior.

/ “Besides me there is no savior.” /Please say it with me. / “Besides me there is no savior.” /God is telling us this message. /Let us take this message to heart.

/Verses 5-6. /It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought; but when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me.

/God rescued the Israelites from the suffering they experienced in Egypt. /His grace allowed them to pass through the dry wilderness. /He gave them manna and quail to eat. /God led them with a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire.

/They ate and became full, and God showed them his miracles. /However, they forgot God and became proud. /Israel abandoned God. /Even in God’s protection and guidance, they forgot God and fell into sin.

/How are we today? /Aren't we people who have come this far by the grace and mercy of God? /We must always remember God's grace and be grateful. /We need to praise God daily and give him joy.

/Verses 7-8. /So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

/Israel forgot about God's grace and left God in its pride. /Therefore, God said his judgment will fall upon them like a lion and like a leopard. /He will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs, and Israel will receive God's merciless attack.

/An attacking bear is far scarier than a dog. /It is difficult for anyone to survive a bear's attack. /The verse prophesies that Israel will fall to strong nations in the future.

/The message is also for us today. /When we forget God's word and fall into sin, we will receive heavy punishment. /We must become more humble as God gives us grace. /This is what God desires of us.

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