

“The Sin Harvested” - Hosea 10:5-15

Ask - “In agricultural terms, what is the harvest?”

Background - Hosea, like many other Biblical writers and prophets, used poetic metaphors to communicate God’s message. In today’s lesson, we will encounter an example of this literary approach.

“Another Golden Calf” - Hosea 10:5-7

(v5) Who are “the inhabitants of Samaria” (*answer: generally speaking, citizens of the Northern Kingdom*)? What was the calf of Beth-aven (*answer: idols set up in Bethel, read 1 Kings 12:25-33*)?

(v6) What would happen to this golden calf idol? What would happen to the kingdom of Israel (aka Ephraim)?

(v7) From what or whom would Samaria and her king (the Northern Kingdom) be cut off? How does the metaphor of a floating stick picture this?

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WOULD GRIEVE OVER HER LOST IDOLS AND BE CUT OFF FROM GOD DUE TO HER SIN.

“High Place and Altars” - Hosea 10:8-10

(v8) Besides the idols, what will happen to the shrines, high places, and pagan altars in Aven (ie, Beth-Aven/Bethel)?

(v9) What does “the days of Gibeah” refer to (*possible answer: the wickedness of Israel as described in Judges 19*)? Who would overtake the Northern Kingdom in Gibeah and elsewhere (*answer: the Assyrians*)?

(v10) What will God do when it is His desire? What is Israel’s “double guilt”? Compare this to Jeremiah 2:13.

THE HIGH PLACES AND ALTARS OF ISRAEL WOULD BE DESTROYED. SHE WOULD BE CHASTENED FOR ABANDONING GOD AND SERVING IDOLS.

“Reaping What You Sow” - Hosea 10:11-15

(v11) Describe and discuss how this metaphor applies to the nation of Israel.

(v12-13) What does God urge His people to do? On the contrary, what have they been doing? Contrast these opposing behaviors.

(v14-15) What is the result of Israel's sin and idolatry? Read 2 Kings 18:9.

ISRAEL WOULD BE DEFEATED BY THE ASSYRIANS AT BETHEL AS IT HAD BEEN AT BETH-ARBEL BECAUSE OF HER UNREPENTANT WICKEDNESS.

Application - Hosea continued to boldly call-out the idolatry and wickedness of Israel. He highlighted their sorrow over the loss of their golden idols and the destruction of their high places, yet described them as hostile to the true and living God. What a sad irony! As such, they would gather the harvest of their sin - harsh judgment at the hands of Assyria. What lesson(s) can we learn from this text?