

“The Hollow Promises” - Hosea 6:1-7:2

Ask - “Have you always done the things you should? Give an example when you didn’t.”

Background - Throughout Hosea’s ministry Israel faced increasing persecution from the Assyrians as the result of their own sinfulness. Hosea boldly spoke of this as a judgment from God and urged the people of Israel to turn from their wicked waywardness back to the LORD.

“The Desired Response” - Hosea 6:1-3

(v1) What would have been Israel’s appropriate response to God’s judgment? On what basis would a repentant response like this be founded?

(v2) How is this verse prophetic? Who and what does it point to? Read and discuss Luke 9:22. How are Jesus and Israel to be compared?

(v3) Who should Israel have longed to know? What could they know about Him and His divine character?

WHEN FACING AND EXPERIENCING GOD’S JUDGMENT, ISRAEL *SHOULD* HAVE REPENTED AND TRUSTED IN HIS COMPASSION, MERCY, AND GOODNESS... BUT THEY DIDN’T.

“Israel’s Treachery” - Hosea 6:4-9

(v4-5) What charge is made against both Israel (aka Ephraim) and Judah in this verse? To what is their loyalty compared and why? What has been the consequence of their disloyalty?

(v6-7) What would God delight in? To whom are Israel and Judah compared and why? Explain.

(v8-9) Both Gilead and Shechem were Levitical cities of refuge, yet how are they characterized in these verses? What does this say about the religious leaders of the day and their influence on Israel?

BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH WERE DISLOYAL TO THE LORD AND TRANSGRESSED AGAINST HIM. THEY WERE LAWLESS AND CORRUPT.

“God’s Hesitation” - Hosea 6:10-7:2

(v10) What did God see and how did He describe it? Read Hebrews 4:13.

(v11-1a) What was God’s desire for Judah? What did God want to do for Israel?

(v1b-2) Why did God withhold this restoration and healing? What were they people doing and what did they fail to consider?

GOD'S DESIRE WAS TO RESTORE JUDAH AND TO HEAL ISRAEL, BUT HE WITHHELD HIS BLESSING DUE TO THEIR SINFUL DISOBEDIENCE. HE SAW THEIR SIN CLEARLY.

Application - God's people should have repented and returned to the LORD. They should have trusted in His divine character and mercy. They should have known that God was fully aware of their evil behavior. They should have... but they didn't. And thus, God withheld His goodness and instead poured out judgment upon them. As it pertains to the LORD and your relationship with Him, what are some things that you should be doing, and perhaps are not? Pray about it.