

## **Bible Study, Series3, Week 8**

### **Personal Bible Study**

#### **Day: 1**

*Read Hosea 11:12 - 12: 1*

*Questions for personal study*

1. Why are the nation being accused of being untrue to God?
2. What does it mean to be fickle? That is how Judah can be described. (Judah, meanwhile, is no better, addicted to cheap gods.)
3. "Judah, meanwhile, is no better, addicted to cheap gods." What does the prophet mean by these words? The Message puts it like this: "Ephraim, obsessed with god-fantasies, chases ghosts and phantoms"
4. In verse 1 we see them making a very big mistake, what is it?

*Personal application:*

1. What really spoke to you in this piece?
2. How are you going to answer to it today, in a practical way?
3. Pray for strength.

*For the evening:*

1. Were you able to be a true follower of Christ today?
2. Read Luke 16: 1-13 and pray

#### **Day: 2**

*Read Hosea 12: 2- 5*

**Verse 2:** Jacob - God called Israel Jacob. The whole of Israel are the descendants of Jacob and that is what is meant here. (Genesis 32: 28) This is where the nation "Israel" got their name.

**Verse 4:** Bethel - The place where Jacob slept with the rock as a pillow and dreamt about the ladder and angels. It is a name for God's "home."

*Questions for personal study*

1. How important is the example your forefathers gives to you?
2. What is the example Jacob gave?
3. Jacob was false sometimes. How does his life differ from that of the Israelites in the times of Hosea?

4. What is the wonderful promise in verse 5?
5. What value does it have for you to know that God is almighty?

*Personal application*

1. What spoke to you in this piece?
2. How are you going to be a good example to others today? Formulate your purpose for today.
3. Pray for strength.

*For the evening*

1. Evaluate the way you lived today. Can others follow your example and glorify God?
2. Read about Paul's example in Philippians 4: 2-9 and pray.

**Day: 3**

*Read Hosea 12:6-8*

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What must a person do, from a person's side, to repair the relationship with God?
2. What was Ephraim's problem?

*Personal application:*

1. Do you really live like a saved child of God? Be honest and do not bluff yourself like Ephraim.
2. If your answer is "yes" what are you going to do today to live it in a practical way.
3. If you have to answer "no" what are you going to do about it?

*For the evening:*

1. How did it go with you today on a spiritual level? Thank God for your victories and confess your failures.
2. Read Zechariah 1: 3-6

**Day: 4**

*Read Hosea 12: 9-10*

Verse 10: God uses the words of the Ten Commandments to announce Himself

"Put you back to living in tents" back to the simple and sober lifestyle of the desert. Because Ephraim obtained his riches in a wrong way, this sober way of life will bring them back to their senses. The emphasis is on God's truth and their falseness?

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What does verse 9 say about God's being and truth. Compare Exodus 3: 14.
2. What was the method God used to make Himself known to the nation in those times?
3. Name a few of the parables Hosea and the other prophets used.

*Personal application:*

1. How can verse 9's meaning be of practical use today?
2. Read Hebrews 1: 1-4 and pray.

*For the evening:*

1. How did you find God's mercy today?
2. Read Hebrews 1

**Day: 5**

*Read Hosea 12: 11-14*

**Verse 11:** "Gilead" serves as an example. Because of their sin Gilead were demolished by the enemy.

"Their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields" when a farmer found rocks on the land he threw it to the side in a heap as it was useless.

**Verse 12:** This history is told in Genesis 28 and 29.

**Israel** - Jacob

**Verse 13:** a prophet - Moses

**Verse 14:** **Ephraim** - the whole nation

*Questions for personal study*

1. Would you say, according to verse 11, that doing religious duties are enough to prevent punishment? Motivate your answer.
2. By making verse 13 the exact opposite of verse 12 God's mercy and love is accentuated. Try and see all the ways that these verses differ from each other.
3. To what extent does verse 14 compare to Romans 6: 23?

### *Personal Application*

1. What spoke to you from this piece?
2. What are you going to do with it in your life in a practical way?
3. Pray that God will make this message a reality to you today.

### *For the evening*

1. What did this morning's message mean to you?
2. Read James 1: 26-27

### **Day: 6**

#### *Read 1 John 1: 7-10 and Psalm 84*

Once again today is a day of revision of the week's Bible Studies and a time to think about your spiritual growth. Remind yourself of the tasks you completed successfully and thank God for them. Try and find out why you failed in some, if you did in fact fail in some, and plan a practical way to improve on your spiritual armor.

Try and attend one church service this week and think about what spoke to you especially. Get a practical application for yourself from it for the coming week. In preparation for the group study look at the explanations again. Pray about it all.

### **Group Bible Study**

#### *Read Hosea 11: 12 and Hosea 12*

1. Which wrong deeds of the nation are mentioned in Hosea 11: 12 and 12: 1?
2. Where would these deeds lead in the end?
3. Is it worth it to satisfy your needs in this life in a fraudulent way? Motivate.
4. What was Jacob's bad example?
5. What is the difference between Jacob's attitude toward God as mentioned in verse 4 and the attitude of the nation as mentioned in verse 14?
6. What should the nation do now? (Verse 6)
7. Are all people supposed to do it or are some people's relationship with God right naturally? Talk about it a bit and then have a look at Romans 3: 23 and 1 John 1: 8 and 10.
8. If we keep verse 10 in mind, would you say the nation did not know any better? Motivate.
9. Do you think they are really Israelite in their hearts or are they rather Canaanites (heathens?) Motivate.
10. What is the warning to us in this? Compare Romans 9: 1-9.

