

Bible Study, Series 3, Week 6

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read Hosea 8: 1-14

Verse 1 "Vultures are circling over God's people" God's people here refers to all of Israel. The vultures are Assyria that are going to destroy Israel (compare verse 10)

Questions for personal study:

1. Why do you think Israel thinks God has to help them according to verse 2?
2. What was the problem with Israel's relationship with God?
3. Why is it not enough to be a Christian only in name but to live as you please?

Personal Application:

1. How sincere is your relationship with God?
2. What can you do today to make your sincere relationship with God a reality?
3. Pray that God will equip you for your task today.

For the evening:

1. Were your relationship to God really sincere today/
2. Could people notice it in your life?
3. Read Romans 6: 12-18 and pray.

Day: 2

Read Hosea 9: 1-6

Verse 3: Israel's exile is being announced once again. (Hosea 8: 13) A part will go to Egypt (a reminder of their time as slaves) and a part to Assyria. There they will have to eat unclean food.

Questions for personal study:

1. What is the extent of Israel's punishment?
2. What does it teach us about God's attitude towards sin?
3. Is it worth choosing the fun and pleasure of temporary sinful acts above obedience to God? Motivate your answer.

Personal application:

1. What spoke to you today?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. Do not rely on your own strength, pray for help from God.

For the evening:

1. How did it go with your spiritual life today? Could you execute today's task?
2. Read Ezekiel 33: 11-20 and pray.

Day: 3

Read Hosea 9: 7-9

Verse 9: "crime at Gibeah" a reminder of the harmful deeds that happened there during the time of the Judges. Read Judges 19 - 21

Questions for personal study:

1. Where does the authority of the prophet's words come from?
2. Why did the nation not want to listen to the words of the prophet?
3. What was there rebellion against the prophet a sign and what did it prove?
4. How is one supposed to act when you are spoken to about something that is wrong in your life? Compare Jonah 3; 5-9

Personal application:

1. How do you react when God makes you aware of sin in your life? Do you flee, become rebellious, try to hide it or do you confess it and try and change?
2. Ask God to help you to life according to His will today.

For the evening:

1. Where you obedient to God today?
2. Read Ephesians 2: 11-22

Day: 4

Read Hosea 9: 10-14

Verse 10: "it was like finding grapes out in the desert. When I found your ancestors, it was like finding a fig tree bearing fruit for the first time." This was something that not happened often and therefore the man that found it would have been very happy. It is used as picture of God choosing his people. God was happy when he found them. This accentuates the impossible happening.

Verse 14: Hosea interrupts God with a heavy heart but he is convinced of the necessity and then he says these words.

Questions for personal study:

1. How did God originally feel about His people?
2. What changed His attitude?
3. What is the content of His punishment this time?

Personal application:

1. God was also happy when you were saved. Do you think He still has reason to be happy?
2. Get a practical task to do today to gladden God's heart today. Ask God to help you.

For the evening:

1. Do you think God can be happy about the way you conducted yourself today? Thank Him for your successes and confess your failures and ask For help.
2. Read Hebrews 3: 7-14.

Day: 5

Read Hosea 9: 15-17

Verse 15: Mentions things that happened when Canaan was entered. It mentions things not mentioned any where else in the Bible. It can also refer to Saul's disobedience and rejection (1 Samuel 13: 7 and 15: 20-26)

Questions for personal study:

1. Take note of the strong language used to describe God's feelings towards His people. How would you have reacted if God had to use such words about you?
2. Why does God feel this way about Israel?
3. Is a childless marriage the result of God's punishment? Motivate your answer.

Personal application:

1. What did you learn from this piece?
2. How can you apply it in your personal life?
3. Ask God to help you.

For the evening:

1. Did you obediently obey God today, listening to Him the whole time?
2. Read Isaiah 49: 14-26

Day: 6

Read Hosea 8: 1- 9: 17

Once again this is the day to do revision of the week's Bible study and to reflect on your progress.

Try and attend one church service this week. Think about what spoke to you most in the service and get a task from it for the week.

Group Bible Study:

Read Hosea 9: 10-17

1. How is it possible that a person chosen by God can hurt God that much?
2. Does it still happen today amongst the children of God? Name a few practical examples.
3. Why is it, according to verse 10, so wrong to worship idols?
4. What is the real result of the punishment announced in verse 11 and 12?
5. What does it mean, in practice, if God rejects and leaves a person?
6. What does it tell us about the seriousness of God when He punishes a person?
7. How necessary and important, would you say, is total obedience to God?
8. What is the relation between the accusation in verse 17 and Paul's plea in Ephesians 4: 18(b)?
9. What does Paul say in Ephesians 5: 18(b) is the answer to the prevention of this sin and how does one do it in practice?