

## **Bible Study, Series 3, Week 7**

### **Personal Bible Study**

#### **Day: 1**

*Read Hosea 10: 1-8*

**Verse 1:** Here it is the prophet speaking again and not God. "A lush vine, bountiful in grapes" is a remembrance of wealth, possible in the time of Jeroboam II. The wealth let the people to build more and more altars for Baal out of "gratefulness"

**Verse 6:** the "the calf-god" (verse 5) the so-called golden-calf had to help pay the heavy taxes of Tilgat-Pileser III (can anyone let me know what the correct English spelling is, please)

**Verse 7-8:** They expected prosperity if their agreement with Assyria but they were swept away by Assyria.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What with the contents of Israel's deceitfulness?
2. What was the result of Israel's seeking help from Assyria instead of from God?
3. How do they feel about life now? (Verse 8)
4. Is it possible to do anything without God without it boomeranging somewhere in future?

*Personal Application:*

1. How are you going to live today to prevent yourself from the same disappointment as Israel in the future?
2. Pray to God to help you with it today and in future.

*For the evening:*

1. Did you acknowledge God in everything you did today?
2. Read Psalm 24 with attention and pray.

#### **Day: 2**

*Read Hosea 10: 9-15*

**Verse 9:** "You got your start in sin at Gibeah" It shows to the happenings in Judges 19 - 21. Since them they did not stop doing all that sin. This is why they will be punished by war as happened that time.

**Verse 10:** "the sum of Gibeah plus Gibeah." There are some different opinions about these exact sins, whether it were specific sins or simply the magnitude of Israel's sin.

**Verse 11:** Here the picture of a young cow that are first used for lighter work and later when she is stronger, she is used for the heavy work, is used as an illustration of what God wanted for Israel. Israel was supposed to move from the "lighter" religious duties to the point where greater demands could be made on them.

"Put Ephraim to work in the fields-- Judah plowing, Jacob harrowing:" God expects obedience from the whole nation.

**Verse 14(b):** It is not at all clear what Hosea is speaking about here. Israel would have known in any case. What is clear though, is that it was and extremely inhuman, vicious and cruel fight.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. Have a look at the picture sketched for us in verse 11 again. Does God expect Israel to do something they are not ready for yet? How can you motivate your answer from history?
2. Which command and promise are given in verse 12?
3. What did they make of this command and what happened to the promise?
4. On what did Israel place their trust?

*Personal application:*

1. What speaks to you, specifically, in this piece?
2. What are you going to do with it in your life, today?
3. Pray for strength and God's blessing.

*For the evening:*

1. Were you able to "sow" today according to God's will? Thank God for it. Confess your failures and claim 1 John 1: 9 for yourself.
2. Read Psalm 33 and pray.

**Day: 3**

*Read Hosea 11: 1-3*

**Verse 1:** The relationship between God and Israel is compared to the relationship between a father and his son. It remembers the time, after they were set free from Egypt when God "brought" them up like a child in the desert. Egypt is the sign of slavery.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. How does God really feel about Israel?
2. In which ways could Israel experience God's love in a practical way?
3. What was their answer to the blessings they received?

*Personal application:*

1. Be honest and say what your reaction is on all the blessings you receive from God's hand?
2. What can you do today to show your thankfulness in a practical way?
3. Devote the day to God in prayer.

*For the evening:*

1. How did it go with the execution of your task today?
2. Read Isaiah 46; 3-4 and pray.

#### **Day: 4**

*Read Hosea 11: 4-7*

"Ephraim" - the whole nation

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What is the punishment the nation will have to endure?
2. How intense will the punishment be according to verse 7?
3. Was it a pleasure to God to punish His nation like that? (Look at verse 5)
4. Why did God do it in any case? (Compare Ecclesiastics 3: 12)

*Personal application:*

1. What struck you in this piece?
2. How are you going to apply it in a practical way, today?
3. Ask God for the strength to do it.

*For the evening:*

1. Judge your spiritual life as you experienced it today
2. Confess each sin and praise God for each triumph
3. Read Revelations 3: 14-22

#### **Day: 5**

*Read Hosea 11: 8-11*

**Verse 8:** "Admah.....Zeboim" are always mentioned in combination with Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 10: 19 and Deuteronomy 29: 23.) They take the place of Sodom and Gomorrah here. God is warning Himself here not to destroy them completely like He destroyed those cities.

**Verse 11:** " frightened birds.....scared doves" Like homing birds, Israel will soon find their way back to their own country, assured of the way like a homing bird knows exactly where it is going. Even though God punishes His children, this piece confirms that God will never destroy them completely.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. How many times does God say in this piece that He will withdraw His punishment?
2. What does verse 9 tell us about God?

*Personal application:*

1. What really spoke to you in this piece?
2. How can it be of practical value to you today?
3. Answer God in prayer

*For the evening:*

1. Did you make practical use this morning's message today?
2. Read John 10: 22-30

**Day: 6**

*Read Hosea 10: 1-11: 11*

Once again this is a day for revision of the week's Bible studies.

1. Do you feel you are growing spiritually?
2. Do you have any problems with living your faith from day to day?
3. What can you do to solve these problems?

Once again, try and attend a Church service and get a special message and task from it for the coming week.

**Group Bible Study**

*Read Hosea 11: 1-11*

If you cannot remember all the explanations of some of the verses, page back and have a look at them again.

1. What does the father-child-relationship teaches us of God's attitude towards His children?
2. Does Israel deserve God's love? Do we? Motivate.
3. What was the nations answer to God's love?
4. Was it only Israel that did this, or is a lot of God's children equally disobedient today? (Compare 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9)
5. Which details in this piece makes it clear to us that God's love does not exclude strict discipline?
6. Which part makes it clear that God's love is bigger than His wrath?
7. Do you think we have to thank God that He in spite of His love, or maybe because of His love, punish us? Motivate your answer. How can we profit from that?
8. Is it still possible to worship idols today, even if you have no statues in your home? Explain.
9. In verse 2 we read about the wrong way to answer God's love, what is the correct way?