

Bible Study, Series 3, Week 9

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read Hosea 13: 1-3

Verse 1: "Ephraim" here mentioned as the one tribe of Israel in its leading position (compare Genesis 48: 14-20, Numbers 13: 8 and 1 Kings 11: 26)

Verse 2: "kiss" honoring an idol

Questions for personal study

1. Name the characteristics of the gods or idols.
2. How do these differ from the characteristics of God?
3. Think about the meaning of the four images in verse 3 and then say what the outcome is for people worshipping false "gods" or idols.

Personal application

1. What spoke to you the most in this given piece?
2. How are you going to do something about it in practice today?
3. Pray for strength for the day.

For the evening

1. Could you accomplish today's task?
2. Thank God for successes and confess failures.
3. Read Psalm 95 and pray

Day: 2

Hosea 13: 4-8

God is compared to a wild animal here, this is to show how aggressively angry He is with His sinful nation.

Questions for personal study

1. What typical kind of actions of humans do we get in verse 4-6? Keep in mind that they were in trouble first and then they had affluence.
2. What is God's reaction towards such a lifestyle?

Personal application

1. If you have affluence and success in your life today, what can you do today to prevent yourself from falling into the same trap?
2. Ask God to give you strength to keep to your decision.

For the evening

1. How did it go today? Did you serve God today?
2. Read 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 and pray.

Day: 3

Read Hosea 13: 9-11

Verse 11: It is very obvious that God is not impressed with the fact that Israel wanted a human as their king to reign over them (1Samual 8: 7-9.) The only result was that they did not acknowledge God as their King any more.

Questions for personal study

1. How is it possible that God could act as He did in verse 9?
2. Is it therefore possible to say: "God is a God of mercy and love and He will not let anyone perish and die unsaved?"
3. What happened to the human help the nation relied on so much?

Personal application

1. What really spoke to you in this piece?
2. How can you apply it in a practical way today?
3. Pray for strength to do it today.

For the evening

1. Study your personal life as you lived it today.
2. Read Psalm 118: 1-9

Day: 4

Read 13: 12 - 16

Verse 13: The image of a baby that is not ready to be born while the time for birth has arrived is used to show that the Israelites did not realize in this time of judgment that it is time to be born again.

Questions for personal study

1. What were the implications of verse 12 for Ephraim?
2. What are the terrible implications of verses 14 and 15?
3. What can you say about your being reborn?

Personal application

1. If God has to weigh your deeds, will it be negative or positive (right or wrong?)
2. Pray for strength so that God can help you that your actions and deeds will be to His honor.

For the evening

1. Were your actions and deeds to God's glory today? Thank God for successes and confess failures
2. Read Revelations 20: 11-15 and pray

Day: 5

Read Hosea 14: 1-9

Verse 6-8: "Lebanon" these mountains are used as an image of steadfastness, fragrance and honor. The good quality wines made from the grapes of these mountains were well known.

Questions for personal study

1. To whom do we have to confess our sins?
2. Does God puss a person, confessing his or her sin in all regret, away? Name examples from the Bible.
3. Which promises are given to the nation here?

Personal application

1. What spoke to you in this piece?
2. How are you going to answer to it today?
3. Pray to God for strength and obedience.

For the evening

1. Take stock of your life today to see if your life really was to God's glory and that it was truly and answer to God's word.
2. Read Romans 6: 1-14 and pray

Day: 6

Read Hosea 14 and Psalm 100

Once again today is a day of revision. Go over the week's Bible studies and seeing that you have gone through Hosea, it will be a good idea to briefly look at the questions again and to look at your answers. This will bring you to the whole meaning of Hosea. Try and formulate it for yourself in your own words.

Once again try and attend one church service this week and get a message and a task for you in it, it does not matter if it comes from the Bible reading, the message, the songs or the prayers. Just try and think what God is asking you to do the coming week.

Group Bible Study

Read Hosea 14

If you need to, have a look at the explanations in the daily studies.

1. Whose fault was Israel's fall? (Verse 1)
2. Have a good look at verse 2-3 and name the elements of a true confession.
3. How necessary is it to name a sin by the name when one confesses ones sin?
4. Have a look at verse 4-8 and name the elements of God's forgiveness.
5. Is the effect of God's grace only temporary? Motivate your answer.