

LESSON 19: HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

Intro:

BIG IDEA: We should not think the _____ of discipline means there is _____ discipline.

When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling;
he was exalted in Israel,
but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.
² And now they sin more and more,
and make for themselves metal images,
idols skillfully made of their silver,
all of them the work of craftsmen.
It is said of them,
“Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!”
³ Therefore they shall be like the morning mist
or like the dew that goes early away,
like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor
or like smoke from a window.

- Some scholars place verse 1 w/the _____ of chapter 12 focusing on _____.¹²⁴
- It also fits here with the _____ of their _____.
- “*trembling*” is the only place this appears. The root has to do with _____.¹²⁵
- The _____ of Ephraim was _____ by idolatry, the worship of Baal.
- There seems to be a parallel with _____ who _____ and _____.
- Or it could refer to their death as a _____, beginning with the siege by _____.
- This idolatry has only _____ as they made silver idols. Skillfully made!
- As the Assyrian threat is drawing near, they aren’t _____, but sinning _____!
- There is debate about the last line of vs. 2. Kidner has “*Humans kiss calves!*”¹²⁶
- Makes more sense as a _____ of their idolatry; kissing the calves, not the _____.
- Calves is the same word used in Exodus 32 of the golden _____ they worshiped.
- All 4 similes point to the _____ nature of Ephraim: *mist, dew, chaff & smoke*.
- This is a fulfillment of Deut. 4:25-6; not all will die, the _____ will cease to exist.

“Hosea thus mocks the absurdity of humans trying to create gods.”¹²⁷

¹²⁴ Stuart, pp. 198.

¹²⁵ Dearman, pp. 316.

¹²⁶ Kidner, pp. 115. See also Stuart, pp. 198, 202.

⁴ But I am the LORD your God
from the land of Egypt;
you know no God but me,
and besides me there is no savior.
⁵ It was I who knew you in the wilderness,
in the land of drought;
⁶ but when they had grazed, they became full,
they were filled, and their heart was lifted up;
therefore they forgot me.
⁷ So I am to them like a lion;
like a leopard I will lurk beside the way.
⁸ I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs;
I will tear open their breast,
and there I will devour them like a lion,
as a wild beast would rip them open.

- They are to know only _____ as God, _____ no other gods.
- This is strengthened by recalling the Exodus. Only He came to their _____.
- Provided all they needed as they _____ thru the wilderness: manna, water, quail.
- God is a _____ God; demands _____ just as He exhibits loyalty.
- The _____ of Deut. 8:14 & 31:2 has come to pass: _____ they forgot Him!
- The price they pay is horrible as He is likened to deadly _____: lion, leopard, bear.
- He will _____ them open and _____ them. He would use _____ to do this.

“Without Yahweh, the infant nation would have died in the Sinai peninsula. They owe their very lives to him, and always have.”¹²⁸

“God’s love does not overlook sin nor does it not circumvent His justice; it operates within it. Even divine discipline is an act of His covenant love.”¹²⁹

⁹ He destroys you, O Israel,
for you are against me, against your helper.
¹⁰ Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities?
Where are all your rulers—
those of whom you said,
“Give me a king and princes”?
¹¹ I gave you a king in my anger,
and I took him away in my wrath.

¹²⁷ Stuart, pp. 202.

¹²⁸ Stuart, pp. 203.

¹²⁹ Barrett, pp. 156.

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- Having made a _____ enemy of the Only True God, they have no one to _____ them.
- Destroy is in the piel, not _____ as we see promised in Deut. 4:31 (using hiphil).
- He points to their _____ of Him in requesting a _____ like the nations (1 Sam. 8).
- Israel consistently put their _____ in the seen (princes, armies) & not the unseen God.
- We are to walk by _____, not by _____. By what we _____ to be true, not what _____ us.
- Just as Saul was removed in God's _____, so have their kings thru _____, betrayal & defeat.
- They would probably have _____ the royal family, and military leaders.

“The ineffectual, if not corrupt, government includes rulers or officials and not just the king himself. Hosea employs the three primary political categories for administrative rule: king (melek), ruler or judge (sophet), and prince of official (sar).”¹³⁰

¹² The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up;
his sin is kept in store.
¹³ The pangs of childbirth come for him,
but he is an unwise son,
for at the right time he does not present himself
at the opening of the womb.

- Their sin & iniquity are _____ up safe and _____ for another day: wrapping & storing of a _____, to be opened and read later (at trial?).
- There is the image of _____ pains. (2 Kings 19:3)
- The child does not _____ himself (breaking of children, when the head _____), possibly referring to a _____.
- If the baby is not born, both _____ and _____ will die.
- The metaphor breaks down with “unwise”. Ephraim failed to exercise _____ in this.
- Their _____ will give birth to _____.

¹⁴ Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol?
Shall I redeem them from Death?
O Death, where are your plagues?
O Sheol, where is your sting?
Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

¹³⁰ Dearman, pp. 324.

15 Though he may flourish among his brothers,
 the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come,
 rising from the wilderness,
 and his fountain shall dry up;
 his spring shall be parched;
 it shall strip his treasury
 of every precious thing.

16 Samaria shall bear her guilt,
 because she has rebelled against her God;
 they shall fall by the sword;
 their little ones shall be dashed in pieces,
 and their pregnant women ripped open.

- Verse 14d is difficult. Kidner agrees with the NIV “*I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave is your destruction? I will have no compassion.*”¹³¹
- The ESV (and other translations) have God utterly abandoning Ephraim to death.
- The NIV, tracking with Paul’s use, see this as God stepping to ransom His wayward people.

A Sheol ransom	B death redeem
B’ plagues death	A’ destruction Sheol ¹³²

From the hands of Hades I will deliver them, and from death I will redeem them. Where is your judgement, O Death; where is your sting, O Hades? Comfort is hidden from my eyes. (LXX)

Will I ransom them from the hand of Sheol, redeem them from death? Where are your plagues, O Death; Sheol, where is your destruction? Compassion is hidden from my eyes. (MT)¹³³

- He will not have compassion on their true enemies: the grave & death!
- Other translations have this as a rhetorical question with ‘no’ as the expected answer.¹³⁴
- Stuart sees this as a summons for the covenant curses to commence.¹³⁵
- The Hebrew in 14a lacks the interrogative prefix. Translators point to preceding gloom.
- But each time Hosea goes to the edge of despair, God pulls Him back with a reversal.
- They were not to think this meant “all is well” but before compassion there will be destruction.
- “flourish” is probably a word play on Ephraim, similar to that in 9:16.
- It could mean that just like Jacob, Ephraim surpassed his brother Manasseh.
- It could refer to their surpassing all but Judah in terms of power, size and influence.
- Alternative: should be translated “wild ass” referring to being stubborn & rebellious.
- Since Hosea likes word plays it could be a pun w/in a pun to criticize Ephraim.
- While Ephraim flourished (was fruitful), it was also stubborn & stirred up trouble.

¹³¹ Kidner, pp. 117-119.

¹³² Dearman, pp. 328.

¹³³ Dearman, pp. 329.

¹³⁴ Stuart, pp. 207; Dearman, pp. 328.

¹³⁵ Stuart, pp. 207.

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- Like a scorching east wind (off the desert) He will dry them up until nothing is left.
- They will lose everything “*strip his treasury of every precious thing*”. *Ill. stock market crash*
- Defeated nations had their treasury carted off. An east wind (Assyria) will do this.
- The reason is that Samaria is guilty, and will bear that awful load.
- Assyria’s conquest in 722 was going to be utterly brutal, and Hosea lets them know it.
- Sargon II would take 27,290 Israelites captive, according to his annals.

Excursus on 1 Corinthians 15

⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 28

⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15**

- Paul seems to be combining Isaiah 25 and Hosea 13, but isn’t quoting precisely.
- He doesn’t seem to be translating the Hebrew text or quoting from the LXX.
- He shifts “he will swallow” (active) to “Death will be swallowed” (passive).
- He is showing that OT prophecy is in full accord with the gospel of Jesus he preached.
- Christ has been cut off to ransom us from death, to redeem us from death.
- He has removed the plagues and sting of death and hades for His people.
- In our resurrection, death will be swallowed up. The death sentence is reversed in Christ.

“The church may not be subject to the same kind of calamities experienced by Israel, but Christians must remain conscious of the fact that their privileged position does not free them to sin and that God will- in fatherly love- discipline them as necessary with a view to holiness.”¹³⁶

Conclusion:

¹³⁶ Barrett, pp. 157.