

**LESSON 8: PROFANE PRIESTS, PART 2 (HOSEA 4-5)**

Intro:

BIG IDEA: \_\_\_\_\_ hearts bring \_\_\_\_\_ people to \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>15</sup> Though you play the whore, O Israel,  
let not Judah become guilty.

Enter not into Gilgal,  
nor go up to Beth-aven,  
and swear not, “As the LORD lives.”

<sup>16</sup> Like a stubborn heifer,  
Israel is stubborn;  
can the LORD now feed them  
like a lamb in a broad pasture?

<sup>17</sup> Ephraim is joined to idols;  
leave him alone.

<sup>18</sup> When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring;  
their rulers dearly love shame.

<sup>19</sup> A wind has wrapped them in its wings,  
and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices. **Hosea 4**

- **Warning:** \_\_\_\_\_ must not \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel’s sin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ call to Israel to \_\_\_\_\_ for her many sins.
- Gilgal was where they \_\_\_\_\_ the men to begin the \_\_\_\_\_.
- There were 12 pillars there. Seems to have become an \_\_\_\_\_ “religious site”.
- “*Beth-aven*” refers to \_\_\_\_\_ (house of God), calling it “house of \_\_\_\_\_”.
- They were participating in great \_\_\_\_\_, & yet \_\_\_\_\_ on the name of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Evidence:** Israel is a stubborn \_\_\_\_\_, a cow.
- Dearman: a play on words. Instead of \_\_\_\_\_ (sara) like Israel, they are \_\_\_\_\_ (sarar).<sup>50</sup>
- “*their rulers dearly love shame*” and “*a wind/spirit has wrapped them in its wings.*”
- Stuart sees the “*broad pasture*” as the expanse or \_\_\_\_\_. Can’t feed a dead lamb.<sup>51</sup>
- Ephraim, or Israel, is joined, not to YHWH, but to \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_ gods).
- They love their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They pursue it.

<sup>50</sup> Dearman, pp. 167.

<sup>51</sup> Stuart, pp. 85

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

“The point of Hosea’s allusion is to affirm that just as Israel of old had exchanged divine glory for the inglorious reflection of the calf idol, so had Israel of Hosea’s time.”<sup>52</sup>

“This suggest that the prophet wants to indicate that Israel had become like it idol, a spiritually rebellious as the calf idol it worshiped, just as had happened to the first generation of Israel at the time of their initial worship of the golden calf.”<sup>53</sup>

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel:

“Seek me and live;

<sup>5</sup> but do not seek Bethel,  
and do not enter into Gilgal  
or cross over to Beersheba;  
for Gilgal shall surely go into exile,  
and Bethel shall come to nothing.” **Amos 5**

**Application:** Faith results in \_\_\_\_\_ living, not \_\_\_\_\_ living. Grace in Christ doesn’t lead to increasing \_\_\_\_\_. Grace teaches us to say ‘no’ to unrighteousness. Christ works to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin in our lives.

“They acted as though faith in Yahweh alone were an impracticable policy for life. As a result, they dishonored him even as they thought they continued to honor him.” **Ray Ortlund, Jr.**<sup>54</sup>

Hear this, O priests!

Pay attention, O house of Israel!  
Give ear, O house of the king!  
For the judgment is for you;  
for you have been a snare at Mizpah  
and a net spread upon Tabor.  
<sup>2</sup> And the revoltors have gone deep into slaughter,  
but I will discipline all of them.

- This is a \_\_\_\_\_ for priests to hear a lawsuit. “*Hear this*”, “*pay attention*”, “*give ear*”.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_: “*o priests*”, “*o house of Israel*” and “*o house of the king*.” None exempt!
- Dearman thinks the “*house of Israel*” refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>55</sup>
- This triple \_\_\_\_\_ is for \_\_\_\_\_. They all really needed to pay attention!
- 1d is \_\_\_\_\_. Should they \_\_\_\_\_ justice or will they \_\_\_\_\_ judgment?

<sup>52</sup> Beale, pp. 235.

<sup>53</sup> Beale, pp. 101.

<sup>54</sup> Ortlund, pp. 48.

<sup>55</sup> Dearman, pp. 170-1.

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- It seems an “ironic pun, a sarcastic double entendre”<sup>56</sup> that \_\_\_\_\_ falls on them who should bring about \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s people.
- 1e begins the \_\_\_\_\_: “*been a snare at Mizpah*”. “*a net spread upon Tabor*”.
- 2a could be: “*a pit dug at Shittim*”.<sup>57</sup> 3 \_\_\_\_\_ and 3 \_\_\_\_\_.
- The corrupt cult was spread all \_\_\_\_\_ Samaria, not \_\_\_\_\_.
- The ESV obscures 2b as well: should read “*place them in \_\_\_\_\_*”<sup>58</sup>.
- The priest & house of the king (2/3 covenant offices) laid \_\_\_\_\_ for the people of Israel.
- They perhaps “*conspired together*” to increase \_\_\_\_\_ (& tithes/taxes) via \_\_\_\_\_ cult.
- For this they will be placed in \_\_\_\_\_ as judgment for leading others astray.

### Emended Text:

Call to Attention: 3 commands & 3 entities (priests, house of Israel, house of the king)

Judgment: +1

Charge: 3 hunting traps & 3 entities (Mizpah, Tabor, Shittim)

Judgment: +1

This has greater symmetry!

<sup>3</sup> I know Ephraim,  
and Israel is not hidden from me;  
for now, O Ephraim, you have played the whore;  
Israel is defiled.

<sup>4</sup> Their deeds do not permit them  
to return to their God.  
For the spirit of whoredom is within them,  
and they know not the LORD.

- **Chiasm:** I \_\_\_\_\_ (A) – Ephraim (B)      Israel (B’) – not \_\_\_\_\_ (A’)
- God \_\_\_\_\_ exactly what is going on with Ephraim/Israel. He \_\_\_\_\_!
- Here “infidelity” has produced “uncleanness” or \_\_\_\_\_. She’s filthy spiritually.
- The “*spirit of whoredom is within them*” they are \_\_\_\_\_ by it.
- The bigger problem is “*they don’t know the Lord*”. Don’t have \_\_\_\_\_ life (Jn. 17:3)!

<sup>56</sup> Dearman, pp. 171.

<sup>57</sup> Stuart, pp. 91-92. Dearman, pp. 170.

<sup>58</sup> Stuart, pp. 92.

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

“Religion, to them, penetrated everything except the conscience. It was a charm against trouble, a compelling pattern of festivals, stories, customs and taboos that gave shape to life; and with its heady Canaanite embellishments it could have the excitement of an orgy.”<sup>59</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The pride of Israel testifies to his face;  
Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt;  
Judah also shall stumble with them.  
<sup>6</sup> With their flocks and herds they shall go  
to seek the LORD,  
but they will not find him;  
he has withdrawn from them.  
<sup>7</sup> They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD;  
for they have borne alien children.  
Now the new moon shall devour them with their fields.

- “*The pride of Israel*” is thinking their \_\_\_\_\_ is okay, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- They were breaking God’s law with their false cult and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Or it could refer to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 15:7) who is testifying directly to them.
- He will “*stumble in his guilt*”. Sin \_\_\_\_\_ us & \_\_\_\_\_ us up (Deut. 32:35).
- Israel isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ though. “*Judah also shall stumble with them.*”
- They are supposed to offer those sacrifices in \_\_\_\_\_, as the place God \_\_\_\_\_.
- Staying north of the border is itself \_\_\_\_\_.
- They are also looking for Him with the \_\_\_\_\_ heart- failing to \_\_\_\_\_ their sin.
- We are to run to \_\_\_\_\_, and only to Jesus. Not to good works, \_\_\_\_\_, self-denial.
- They “*dealt faithlessly with the Lord*”. Disobedience prompted by a lack of \_\_\_\_\_.
- “*alien*” should be “illegitimate” or “unauthorized”.<sup>60</sup> Born of \_\_\_\_\_ - not \_\_\_\_\_ Israelites.
- Stuart emends “*new moon*” to “new people” following Deut. 28:33, 51.<sup>61</sup>
- “*new moon*” points to how false \_\_\_\_\_ devours us, saps us of \_\_\_\_\_.
- “new people” points us to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenant their sin deserves (see 7:9; 8:1).
- Or, the “*new moon*” could refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment. Just around the corner.

“An outsider defines someone whose heritage is not in a community of contact and whose ethics are not necessarily bound to it.”<sup>62</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Kidner, pp. 84.

<sup>60</sup> Stuart, pp. 94.

<sup>61</sup> Stuart, pp. 94.

<sup>62</sup> Dearman, pp. 177.