

LESSON 9: RETURN TO ME

Intro:

BIG IDEA: God STILL wants His _____ to come _____.

⁸ Blow the horn in Gibeah,
the trumpet in Ramah.
Sound the alarm at Beth-aven;
we follow you, O Benjamin!
⁹ Ephraim shall become a desolation
in the day of punishment;
among the tribes of Israel
I make known what is sure.
¹⁰ The princes of Judah have become
like those who move the landmark;
upon them I will pour out
my wrath like water.
¹¹ Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,
because he was determined to go after filth.
¹² But I am like a moth to Ephraim,
and like dry rot to the house of Judah.

- This section begins with a “triple” _____: one is implied in _____
- The _____ is to be blown to sound an alarm in Gibeah.
- Gibeah (hill/hilltop) was a town about ___ miles north of _____ in Benjamin.
- Gibeah was the site of the _____ events, _____ sexual sin (Judges 19-21).
- The trumpet is to be blown in _____, about ___ miles north of Jerusalem in Benjamin.
- Ramah was where the people asked _____ for a _____ like the nations (1 Sam. 8).
- “*Sound the alarm*” is the _____ of the _____ in Beth-aven.
- Beth-aven, as noted, was a reference to Bethel which was ___ miles north of Jerusalem.
- Bethel: on the _____ of Ephraim & Benjamin, chosen to keep people from Jerusalem.
- This is about an invasion from the _____ (Gibeah-Ramah-Bethel): _____!

Excusis: Syro-Ephraimite War

- During _____ reign Syria & Ephraim were troubled by _____ growing power.
- Pekah (Ephraim) & Rezin (Ephraim) formed an _____ & tried to force Judah to join.
- After Jotham’s death (735), Ahaz appealed to _____ to help Judah.

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- Assyria attacked Syria & then _____ taking away much of the land & _____ people.
- Only Ephraim & Benjamin remained _____. Pekah was assassinated by Hoshea.

- Benjamin initially supported _____ (1 Kings 12) but disputed territory.
- “*Desolation*” or _____ is used in the covenant curses (Deut. 28:37; Jer. 2:15; 4:7).
- The coming judgment on the Ephraim is _____, or _____. Going to happen.
- If this is after Tiglath-Peleser III (732), it anticipates the _____ defeat (722) (Is.7-8).
- Their punishment has only just _____, and it will get much _____.
- There is a shift to the _____ of Judah being like “*those who move the landmark*”.
- The landmark was a _____ marker. They wanted to _____ part of Benjamin.
- This was a _____ (Deut. 19:14; 27:17) that brought a curse upon the people.
- Judah (Ahaz) may be executing a land-grab of Benjamin to provide a _____ w/Ephraim.
- God’s wrath will be poured out like _____ - like a _____ reminiscent of Genesis.
- The northern kingdom is “*oppressed, crushed in judgment.*”
- The reason lies with _____ who was “*determined to go after filth.*”
- The image of “*moth*” and “*rot*” imply that God is the source of their culture’s _____.
- These are _____ & _____ killers, eating away at the _____ & structure of society.

“If Israel was a den of vice, Judah was a den of thieves.”⁶³

“Boundaries, set by God were so that each tribe or family would be protected from economic vicissitudes, were considered permanent.”⁶⁴

¹³ When Ephraim saw his sickness,
and Judah his wound,
then Ephraim went to Assyria,
and sent to the great king.
But he is not able to cure you
or heal your wound.
¹⁴ For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
and like a young lion to the house of Judah.
I, even I, will tear and go away;
I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.

⁶³ Kidner, pp. 61.

⁶⁴ Stuart, pp. 104.

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- Both kingdoms see their respective “*sickness*” & “*wound*” but don’t ____ out to YHWH.
- Ephraim cries out to _____. It was a vassal state of _____ a number of times.
- Assyria cannot cure Ephraim’s _____ or heal Judah’s wound. Worthless _____!
- They needed to forsake their foreign _____ & political _____ to seek YHWH.
- What survived the illness & rot was now going to be destroyed by a _____ (curse).
- God will be like a _____ to rebellious Ephraim & Judah. The hunt will be successful.
- **Parallelism:** Ephraim- _____ => tear, depart Judah- young lion => _____, none to rescue

“Assyria’s ultimate policy toward Israel, either north or south, was unpredictable, and trusting it to help was folly.”⁶⁵

¹⁵ I will return again to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face,
and in their distress earnestly seek me.
¹“Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
³ Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.”

- Some have tried to discount this as _____ or an addition by a later _____.
- This section fits in with the context, and Hosea’s _____ of doom & hope. Authentic.
- YHWH returns to His _____. The place where His name dwells: _____.
- Though He seems _____ until they repent, He is _____ though they can’t find Him.
- Repentance (turning): acknowledge guilt AND _____ His face.
- Such repentance is predicted by _____ in Deuteronomy 4:25-31 and 30:1-10.
- Distress will lead them to “*earnestly seek me.*” It will not be a _____ - _____ affair.
- He _____ to His place in order to _____ their _____ to Him.
- While He has torn them _____ in judgment, He is also able to make them _____.
- _____ are put into their mouths to represent this _____ of repentance.

⁶⁵ Stuart, pp. 105.

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- They recognize that His _____ of them was intended to _____ them.
- Even though He _____ them down, He will be the One to _____ up their wounds.
- **Chiasm**: 2 days – revive; 3rd day – raise us up. Original meaning: set time for return.
- Israel was as good as _____ - defeated & exiled. But God would give them new _____.
- This takes on a _____ function by pointing us to _____.
- Because He lives, we are able to _____ before the _____ of God.

Excursis: “Resurrection” and Canaanite Religion

- The _____ pattern in _____ religions like those in Canaan experienced a turnaround.
- In the 20th century some scholars saw this as teaching a “_____ and _____ god.”
- They think Canaanite religion has influenced Hosea in this regard.
- “Dying” and “being raised to life” is language found in _____ too.
- “Dying” would refer to a ruler being _____, or rightful claim being _____.
- “Raising to life” refers to a vassal being _____ as king: political _____.

- Now _____ to God they were to “*press on to know the LORD.*”
- Remember: eternal life is _____ God. This is a picture of people w/ _____ life.
- He draws on _____ to make his point. God’s _____ will be as “*sure as the dawn*”.
- His coming will be as _____ as “*spring rains that water the earth.*” Brings _____!
- You need both _____ and _____ to have a prosperous agricultural cycle.

“Religion, for her, is not knowing God, still less ‘pressing on to know him’. It is merely placating Him with sacrifice.”⁶⁶

“To know Yahweh means to accept his covenant lordship.”⁶⁷

Conclusion:

⁶⁶ Kidner, pp. 64.

⁶⁷ Stuart, pp. 108.