

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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The Downward Spiral Hosea 6:7-7:2

“You can sin and it won’t cost you” is the first lie recorded in the Bible, and I think it’s Satan’s personal favorite. You can have your idols, and throw God the scraps of your attention, and no harm will come of it. That’s the lie he sold Israel, it’s the lie they bought, and it’s the lie this and following passages disprove. Hosea outlines here the degrading path that idolatry has led Israel as a nation. I want us to follow that path tonight and to see the dangers as we...

Beware the path of idolatry.

I. Idolatry leads to iniquity (6:7).

Israel no doubt began following idols believing that they wouldn’t go as far down that degrading path as the nations around them. doing so would improve their lives.

- A. Idolatry causes people to love the wrong things.**
- B. Idolatry causes people to do the wrong things.**

II. Idolatry leads to instability (6:8-7:1).

Israel began worshipping idols because they promised to make life better. Unfortunately, partway down that path Israel learned too late that idols always ruin, they never help.

A. Israel disintegrated as a nation.

1. Israel fell into political revolution (6:8).
2. Israel fell into violence (6:9).
3. Israel fell into corruption (7:1).

B. America will disintegrate as a nation.

C. People will disintegrate as individuals.

III. Idolatry leads to investigation (6:10-7:2).

Israel eventually stopped paying attention and keeping track of their sin. Rather than mourning their disobedience, they ignored it. God never did, though. God always sees and always knows our sin.

A. God knows the sins of his people (6:10, 7:2).

1. God sees our sins.
2. God remembers our sins.

B. God judges the sins of his people (7:1).

The first step away from God is rarely a huge one. It's not often noticed by others. In fact, you may take that step without even fully realizing it yourself. The first step down this degrading path we have seen tonight starts when idols begin to rule our heart. But that small step soon becomes noticeable, because the path of idolatry leads to dark and scary places.