

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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Reaping the Whirlwind

Hosea 8

If you asked most Christians if they trusted God with the details of their life, they would most likely answer “yes.” Unfortunately, it’s all too easy to say that we trust God when in reality we are trusting ourselves or some other force. To pay God lip service while in our hearts leaning on our own understanding happens more often than we would care to think or admit.

In this chapter, Hosea warns Israel that by trusting themselves, the nations around them, and their broken religious system they have been failing to trust God and in so doing are actually planting the seeds of their own destruction. Galatians warns us that what we sow, we reap. Hosea reminds us that we not only sow what we reap, we reap more than we sow.

Only God can solve life's problems.

I. Trust God, not the world (vv 7-10).

- A. Trusting the world leads to disappointment.** Israel made a lot of deals with a lot of nations, and none of them worked out for her in the end.

B. Trusting the world leads to destruction. God's anger that Israel would look to the world around her rather than to him caused him to unleash his destruction on Israel.

II. Trust God, not idols (vv 4b-6, 11-13).

A. Idolatry comes from an unscriptural view of God. The great temptation for all people is to twist their view of God to make him look more like them and more accepting of what they like.

B. Idolatry results in destruction. Those with a wrong view of God will live rebelliously against his laws and will be destroyed.

III. Trust God, not yourself (vv 4a, 14).

A. Don't trust your own wisdom (v 4a). Israel set up and kings and princes and overthrew regimes without ever stopping to ask God what he thought.

B. Don't trust your own might (v 14). Israel sought to build up her fortifications to get ready for war. While not inherently wrong, this action was done instead of seeking God's help and patiently waiting for his guidance.

All too often we are far more like Israel than we care to admit. We look to ourselves, the world, and a false view of God to fix our problems. But the good news is that we serve a God that wanted to be the hero for Israel, and he wants to be the hero for us. God is very angry in this passage, but he's angry because Israel is abandoning him for people and things that can't do what he longs to do for them. Israel won't even giving him the opportunity to show himself strong on their behalf.

And so tonight the challenge is simple: trust God. Trust him over and above the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of yourself. Allow God to shape you and don't you shape God. Because only God can solve life's problems.