

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

November 1, 2017

Pastor Ben Hicks

The Dark Side of Baalism Hosea 4:11-19

Something happened April 26, 1986 that would forever change the world. A poorly coordinated test at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant led to a meltdown of disastrous proportions. In the end, close to 100 firemen died from radiation exposure, and 25,000-100,000 of the 600,000 people who helped clean up the catastrophe also died from causes attributable to radiation. Few words can terrify quite like “radiation.” We understand its destructive power, and we fear it and stay as far away as we can. So why don’t we treat sin that way? How sad that we live in a generation that trembles at the thought of radiation yet rolls its eyes when warned about sin.

Sin will ruin you, so stay away!

I. Sin will ruin you. . . (vv 11-14)

Hosea describes the Baal cult with chilling detail, showing us what it looks like for a people to be ruined by their sin.

A. By causing you to be stupid (v 11).

The Scriptures teach that sin is not just wrong; it is stupid. But beyond that, sin is not just stupid; it makes you stupid.

- 1. Whoredom causes you to be stupid.**
- 2. Wine causes you to be stupid.**

B. By cutting you off from God (v 12).

Israel turned to dumb idols for direction and sticks for guidance, rather than turning to the one true God.

C. By consuming your attention (v 13).

Israel's idolatry was out of control. Everywhere one looked there were shrines popping up throughout the country, encouraging people to engage in debauchery.

D. By corrupting your morals (v 14).

II. . . .So stay away! (vv 15-19)

Hosea concludes this section by focusing his attention on the nation of Judah, warning them to take heed and keep far away from the sinful living of their corrupt neighbor lest they, too, face the same judgment (cf Ezekiel 23).

A. The command to stay away (vv 15, 17).

B. The negative example (vv 16a, 18).

- 1. Israel was stubborn (v 16a).**
- 2. Israel engaged in moral depravity (v 18).**

C. The judgment of God (vv 16b, 19).

- 1. Israel forfeited God's blessings (v 16b).**
- 2. God will bring judgment (v 19).**